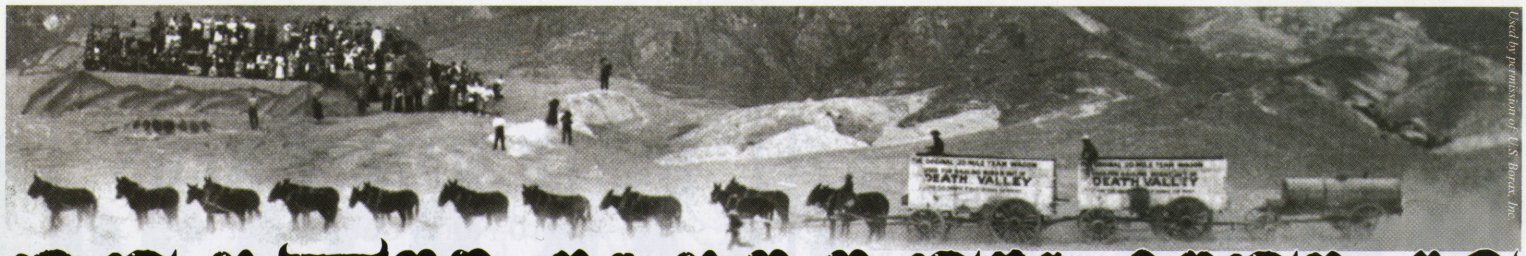

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DEATH VALLEY NEWS

The Death Valley '49ers Magazine For Death Valley '49er Members

Issue No. 83 | *Death Valley '49ers Incorporated* | Spring 2008

Blooming Cholla Cactus with Death Valley's Funeral Mountains in the background

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The Death Valley '49ers Incorporated

DEATH VALLEY NEWS

3410 North Cabo Street
Pahrump, Nevada 89060

E-Mail: DeathValley49ers@starband.net

Visit our website at

www.DeathValley49ers.org

PUBLICATION NOTICE

The Death Valley News is available through Death Valley '49er Membership only, and distribution is controlled by the Membership Committee.

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REMEMBER!

Your membership dues to the Death Valley '49ers may be tax deductible

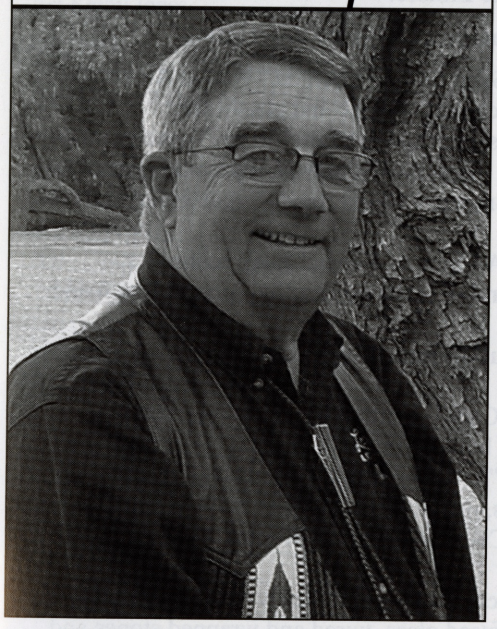
Editors of the Death Valley News
Death Valley '49er Director Ken Lengner
Death Valley '49er Director Danny Ray Thomas
Email: DeathValley49ers@starband.net

Cover Photo by 1st Vice President Danny Ray Thomas

DEATH VALLEY NEWS

Issue No. 83 *Death Valley '49ers Incorporated* **Spring 2008**

President's Perspective



DICK GERING
Death Valley '49ers
2008 President

It is an honor to serve as the president of the Death Valley '49ers for 2008. Many dedicated persons have preceded me. There are currently dedicated officers and members continuing to support the '49er mission. I feel I have been tutored well by last year's president, Marvin Jensen. My wife Nan and I resided in the Midwest for over 45 years and knew nothing of the Death Valley '49ers. I was an active Army Reserve officer for 30 years and we were able to be full-time RVers for four years while serving on Army tours.

When I completed my 30th year I was required to retire and we found ourselves in Yuma, Arizona among the snowbirds. After two years in Yuma an acquaintance who had gone to work at Furnace Creek contacted us and enticed us to come to Death Valley and work. We intended to spend one winter season before moving on to some of the other national parks but loved Death Valley so much that we spent the next five years working for Xanterra at Furnace Creek Inn & Ranch Resort. That move was the beginning of our involvement with the DV'49ers. Even though we left Death Valley and currently reside in Lone Pine, CA., we have very strong ties to the DV'49ers and Xanterra.

The 2007 Encampment under Marv Jensen's able leadership was an enormous success. Past President Bill Pool deserves thanks for his efforts adding the "Salinas Valley 4 Bangers Model T Ford Club" participation. Reports indicate that they will be back for the 2008 Encampment with additional members. Thanks also goes to Wanda Elmore for adding the "Southwest Mining, Minerals, Lapidary, & Craft Show. It appears that it will also be larger during the 2008 event. Thanks to Chuck and Sarah Fiske, the return of the "Prospectors Race" at Stovepipe Wells was a load of family fun. If you missed it; be sure to attend during 2008.

Planning for the 2008 Encampment is well under way. It takes many dedicated chairpersons and committee members to make this event possible. Your membership entitles you to join that dedicated group. There are several levels of commitment and we encourage you to inquire. A good place to inquire is at the membership booths.

It also takes an enormous commitment from Xanterra and the National Park Service to facilitate the Encampment. We thank them for their continued support and assistance.

Our commitment to the stewardship of Death Valley National Park includes volunteer and financial support. The memberships are our major funding source for the Encampment and projects in the park. During this year's Encampment 900 new memberships and 851 renewal memberships were sold. Others who were unable to attend the Encampment sent in their renewals so as not to miss out on their Death Valley News Magazines. Membership forms are in your program, magazine or on our website. I encourage you to keep your membership current so that you can continue to receive the two annual issues of our newly expanded news magazine.

There is an abundance of information available on our website, www.deathvalley49ers.org including: a complete list of historical publications, cloisonné's, membership info, etc.

Put the Encampment on your calendar and make your reservations early. Pre Encampment begins on November 2nd and the Encampment is November 5th through 9th.

Death Valley '49ers
President Dick Gering

Editors Corner

Hello fellow '49ers and welcome to the third issue of your Death Valley '49er News Magazine. You will notice that we have again expanded from last issues 20 pages to this issues 24 pages. Advertisements paid for by members and others allow this expansion.

Your organization is working hard for you and your affection for Death Valley National Park. In this issue, you will find more of everything. There are more articles on the back country, park happenings, Xanterra, Death Valley Natural History Association, E. Clampus Vitus, Beatty Museum, Shoshone Museum and others.

Please do not hesitate to send us your thoughts on how you feel your organization can be improved.

The DEATH VALLEY '49ERS OFFICERS For The Year 2008

DICK GERING.....*President*
DANNY RAY THOMAS.....*1st Vice President*
WALTER HODGSON.....*2nd Vice President*
NAN GERING.....*Secretary*
EDIE POOL.....*(Interim) Treasurer*
MARV JENSEN.....*Immediate Past President*

THE INVITATIONAL WESTERN ART SHOW

by Director Wanda Elmore

The Invitational Western Art Show was a great success in 2007. We had 36 artists register and 32 artists exhibiting and competing. With the support of the Death Valley '49er organization, the generosity of the artists, and the auctioning skills of Steve Orcutt, we raised over $ 8,000.00 for the scholarship program!

WINNERS OF THE 2007 PATIO COMPETITION CONTEST

Watercolor
1st.Place - William Rushing
2nd.Place - Barbara Jean Emerich
3rd.Place - Carl Seyboldt

Sculpture
1st.Place - Yvonne Kitchen
2nd.Place - Sandra Lee
3rd.Place - Felicia

Other Media
1st.Place - R. P. Kidd
2nd.Place - David Bjurstrom
3rd.Place - Janet LeRoy

Oil
1st.Place - Sandra Alger
2nd.Place - Peggy Rushing
3rd.Place - Joyce Brookens

In 2008, Wanda Elmore, the Art Show Chairperson for several years, will continue to assist with the Art Show administration. Sharon Hearn will return as the Art Show Chairperson, with the assistance of the Art Show Committee. Edna Wade has stepped up to help both Wanda and Sharon in administrative areas, in addition to her day-time job at Furnace Creek Ranch Reservations.

The Death Valley '49ers Art Show is the longest running Invitational Western Art Show in the Southwest and continues to exhibit in the parking lot at the Death Valley Visitor's Center. There was artwork at the very first Encampment in 1949. A dedicated show established in 1951. The Art Show continues to focus on fine art including; sculpture, oil paintings, watercolor paintings, acrylic paintings and art in other media

The Art Show has promoted and supported the Death Valley '49ers **Scholarship Program** for many years. The artists have supported this program and contributed generously their a) pre-Encampment artwork, b) Thursday and Friday Quick-Draws artwork, and c) En Plein-air (plain air, natural light) competition artwork for auction at the "Breakfast with the Artists" on Saturday mornings.

Now, the Art Show supports the Death Valley '49ers **Educational Program**. The Scholarship Program is a part of the overall Education Program. Another part of the Education Program entails our support of the **Outreach Program** which supports younger students and is discussed in more detail in other articles in this issue of the News Magazine. Those artists and others donating to the Educational Program will be given the option to donate to the a) overall Education Program, b) the Scholarship Program, or c) the Outreach Program.

Information about the Art Show and Artist Applications are available on our website,

http://www.deathvalley49ers.org/information.html

If you would like to volunteer in any venue, please contact Wanda or Sharon for the Art Show at,

DV49erArtShow@yahoo.com

Artists who would like to jury in the Invitational Western Art Show or have questions about the registration, please contact Wanda Elmore **wandaelmore@cox.net** 619-460-5740.

SOUTHWEST MINING, MINERALS, LAPIDARY and CRAFT SHOW

by Director Wanda Elmore

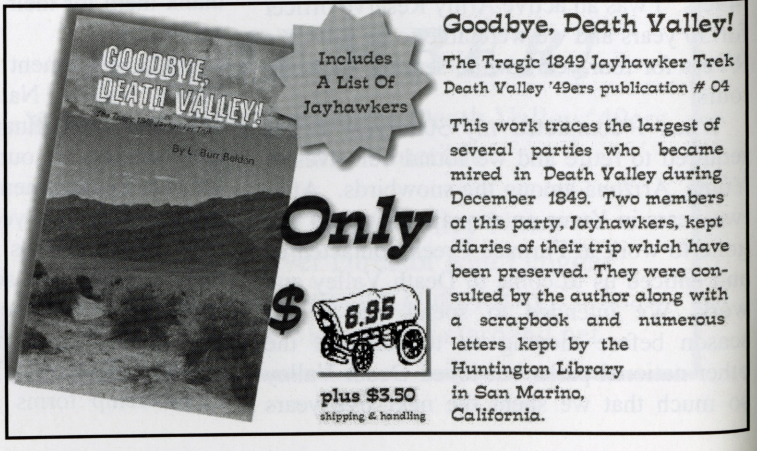
As reported in the 2007, fall issue of the News Magazine, a *Mining, Mineral, and Lapidary Show* was held at the Borax Museum during the Death Valley '49ers Encampments in the 1980s. A new *Southwest Mining, Mineral, Lapidary and Craft Show* opened November 5, 2007. Fifteen talented craftsmen exhibited their wares and achieved good sales during this new show. Many have promised to return and bring a friend. It is reasonable to expect that the show will greatly expand in 2008. We are always looking for quality artisans.

Special thanks go to the folks at Xanterra: Dominie Lenz, Sharon "Shep" Shepard, Denny Riesmeyer, and staff. Many thanks to '49er committee members: Letha and Ted Tatro, Joyce Tullis, Hugh and Carol McPhail, and Gene Elmore.

Vendor names and craft description:

1. **Donald Austin** –"Sand Carved Designs," Native American petroglyph images carved in stone and glassware.
2. **Laura S. Bergstresser** –"Laura's Enterprises." jewelry made with silver, copper, glass, pearls, and semi-precious gem beads.
3. **Brian & Bonnie Brown** –"China Ranch," date bread and cook ies, condiments.
4. **Dave Freeman** –"A Show of Hands," hand castings.
5. **Manuel Q. Hernandez** –"Hernandez Enterprise," rough and polished rocks.
6. **Jan & Lisa Higginbotham** –"Fallen Leaf," Native American jewelry.
7. **Carol McPhail** –"Carol's Crafts," tote bags, pot-holders, wallets, baby cloth books and blankets.
8. **Richard Moran** –"Creative Magnetic Jewelry," therapy items: brackets, necklaces, etc.
9. **Cheryl Norlin** –"Cheryl Norlin," craft sales, jewelry, photo notes art.
10. **Francis and Francee Pedneau** –"Bearly Wrapped," beaded jewelry, lapidary, fused glass, wired and wrapped stones and glass jewelry, rock, gourds, etc.
11. **Wally Pacholka** –"Night Sky Gallery," night sky photographs over National Parks.
12. **Barbara Pino** –"Barbara Pino," all handcrafted clothing and crochet.
13. **Clora Teel** –"Heirlooms of Trona," jewelry, bird houses, small crafts, etc.
14. **Tella Vore** "Tella's HandiCrafts," small crafts, photos, etc.
15. **Cliff and Jeanette Nutcher** –"Bearly Wrapped". Lapidary

These and additional vendors will create a "shop-till-you-drop" event opening November 3rd. 2008. Once again they will be located behind the Borax Museum at Furnace Creek.


GOODBYE, DEATH VALLEY!
By L. Burr Belden
Includes A List Of Jayhawkers
Only
$ 6.95
plus $3.50 shipping & handling
Goodbye, Death Valley!
The Tragic 1849 Jayhawker Trek
Death Valley '49ers publication # 04
This work traces the largest of several parties who became mired in Death Valley during December 1849. Two members of this party, Jayhawkers, kept diaries of their trip which have been preserved. They were consulted by the author along with a scrapbook and numerous letters kept by the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

CRAFT & PHOTO CONTEST

by Directors Danny Ray & Cheryl Thomas

The Death Valley '49er Craft and Photography Contest held at Stovepipe Wells Village this year was a great success. All categories, had a great showing. We had so many entries, we actually ran out of participation ribbons. We will be sure to order more for next year's event.

"Thank You" to all who entered.

2007 WINNERS

EMBROIDERY
3rd ~, 2nd Maureen Henry
1st Kathy Jones

CROCHET
3rd Alvina Zeh, 2nd Fran Neuppert
1st Darline Pauselius

OPEN
3rd Anna Kameron, 2nd Maureen Henry
1st Darline Pauselius

NEEDLEPOINT
3rd ~, 2nd Maureen Henry
1st Darline Pauselius

QUILTING
3rd Judy Sharpnack, 2nd Maureen Henry
1st Fran Neuppert

KNITTING
3rd ~, 2nd Gwen Lawson
1st Mary Burbery

CROSS STITCH
3rd Carol Brewer,
2nd Christie Terraneo
1st Darline Pauselius

MISCELLANEOUS
3rd Gene Zeh, 2nd Sally Meadows
1st Bruce Casper

NEEDLE CRAFT BEST OF SHOW
Darline Pauselius

WOOD CARVING
3rd Dave Coen, 2nd Paul Meadows
1st Vickie Hopson

WOOD CARVING BEST OF SHOW
Vickie Hopson

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

BLACK & WHITE
3rd George T. Rodney, 2nd Carrie Shandor
1st Tom Reyjek

COLOR
3rd Darline Pauselius, 2nd Janet S. Mitchell
1st George T. Rodney

OPEN
3rd Chuck Knight, 2nd R. P. Kidd
1st Janet S. Mitchell

4 X 6
3rd Maureen Henry, 2nd Tom Reyjek
1st Janet S. Mitchell

COLLAGE
3rd Janet S. Mitchell, 2nd Tom Reyjek
1st Robin Davis

PHOTOGRAPHY BEST OF SHOW
George T. Rodney

DEATH VALLEY '49ers GOLF TOURNAMENT

by President Dick Gering

Thank you to all of our Death Valley '49er members who participated in the 2007 Golf Tournament and thanks to all of those who donated prizes for the tournament. We awarded several certificates for various golf outings which included free golf, free cart use, overnight accommodations, and many other prizes.

We will again have a tournament on Friday and Saturday of the 2008 Encampment. The format will remain the same; two scramble events. In addition to the tournament, '49er members are offered the opportunity to golf during the entire Encampment for Furnace Creek's Sundowner Rates... anytime of the day. The tournament will continue to be by tee times rather than shotgun start. This allows golfers to schedule around other encampment events.

Come join the fun and shoot the lowest game of golf possible. Elevation is 214' below sea level. Entry information and forms will be available at the membership booths and at the golf pro shop.

Anyone wanting to donate golf prizes; please email or phone me at **dickgering@yahoo.com** or 760 876-4284.

EIGHTH DEATH VALLEY CONFERENCE ON HISTORY AND PREHISTORY ORGANIZED BY THE DEATH VALLEY NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION (DVNHA)

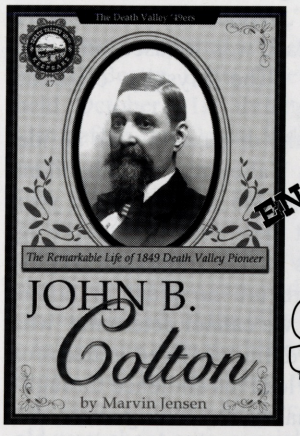
by Director Ken Lengner

The Eighth Conference on History and Prehistory was held at Furnace Creek January 31-February 4, 2008. The Conference was chaired by Death Valley '49er and DVNHA Director David Blacker. There were 18-30 minute papers and 5-15 minute glimpses into history. Subjects included: mining and miners, Native Americans, Death Valley characters, prehistoric life in Death Valley, and trains. The Death Valley '49ers presented papers on *The Mystery of Death Valley's Mesozoic Era, Tales of Bygone Days, and The Death Valley Region in 1926* and a glimpse into history on *The 1834 Rock.*

Approximately 125 authors and guests attended the conference. Additional activities included: a Book Sale, an outstanding Saturday night BBQ dinner, and a Sunday field trip to Keane Wonder and Big Bell Mills.

The Death Valley '49ers Publications Committee will edit all the proceedings and publish them in book format. The books will be given to all conference attendees and available for sale at the Visitor's Center and on the Death Valley '49ers website.

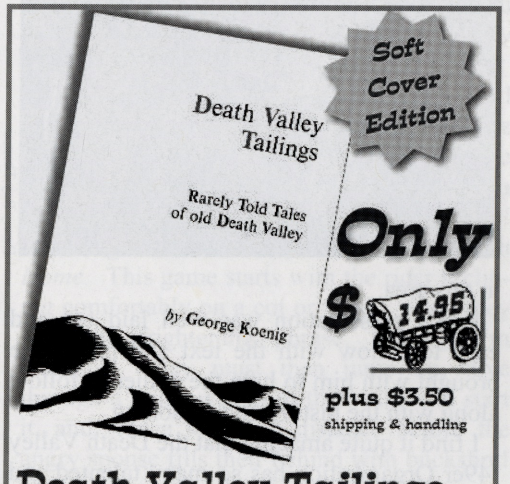
KEEPSAKE #47



2007 ENCAMPMENT RELEASE

$4.95
Plus $3.50 S&H

This new Keepsake is filled with everything you'll want to know about Death Valley Hero John B. Colton



Death Valley Tailings
Rarely Told Tales of old Death Valley
Death Valley '49ers publication # 13

Recaptured within these pages are stories that will help you to turn back the clock, and relive the historic past.

This is a definitely different collection of Death Valley tales. Each provide a more complete picture of one of the most fascinating areas and eras of the Old West.

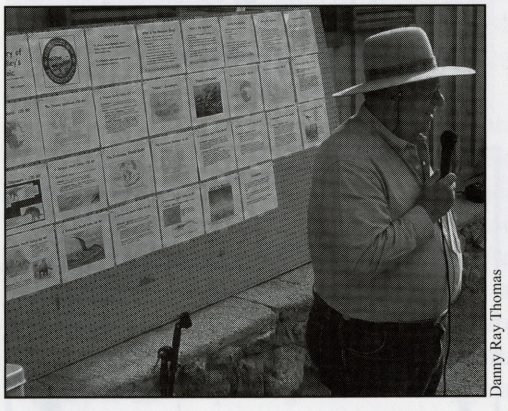
Subjects discussed include, missing 1849 Death Valley Argonauts, gold and silver hunters, explorers, map makers and inscriptions left on rock.

AUTHORS BREAKFAST

by 1st Vice President Danny Ray Thomas

This year's Authors Breakfast was presented by Death Valley '49er Director, Mr. Ken Lengner. Ken is an author and historian who is engrossed with "The History of Death Valley", which by the way, is exactly what his talk was focused on. Or to be more precise, "The Mystery of Death Valley's Mesozoic"

Ken started off the discussion with an idea of what the Death Valley regions inhabitants may of looked like 245 to 65 million years ago. He stated that there are no Mesozoic age sedimentary rocks in the immediate region, which means there are no plant or animal fossils. Therefore, we cannot determine what plant and animals definitely lived in this area. At this point, Ken lead his audience through a reconstructive phase, explaining how and why it was conceivable that certain early herbivores and carnivores would have lived



Danny Ray Thomas

in this area.

Ken's presentation was well laid out and easy to follow with the text and photos he brought with him to help the audience follow along with the history and reasoning.

I find it quite amazing that the Death Valley '49er Organization has so many talented and knowledgeable members, in so many diverse areas of the sciences. Ken received a great big round of applause for his effort in bringing his wit and wisdom to the Death Valley '49ers... *Thank You* Ken

PAMPERED PET DRESS-UP CONTEST

by Director Diane Heffner

In this our fifth year, we again had a wonderful contest. As usual, people spent a lot of time working with their pets and on their costumes. A big "Thank you" to the pet owners for all the work they did prepping their pets and all the fun and laughs they provided the audience. Also, thanks to the judges who did a great job in performing the difficult selection process. Thanks to Tom Leftwich for the music and my husband Dave for being the M.C.

The winners are as follows:

1st Place, "Baily's Irish Cream," Shihtzo, owned by Hank DiTomaso, dressed in a tuxedo and top hat.

First Place winner, Baily's Irish Cream.

2nd Place, "Colorado," Pomeranian, owned by Frances Hopkins, dressed as Laura Engles.

3rd Place, "Raymond," Poodle, owned by Michaely Boyle, dressed as an agent from Death Valley AAA.

Here is the script: "Here is agent Raymond from the Death Valley Triple-A. He's on duty looking for an unlucky motorist now! Wait a minute, that's not an ordinary motorist. It's a Death Valley '49er. Wait another minute. It's not just a '49er, It's OLE TWO SHOVELS!"

They had made a cardboard copy of Dave's well known Toyota 4wd and gave it to him after the contest.

Two more winners were:

Best Western, "Buddy," Chawienie, owned by Jim and Sandy Smith, dressed as a Cowboy.

Best Original Death Valley, "Jake," Chihuahua, owned by Chris Terraneo, dressed as an Indian.

HISTORICAL BREAKFAST

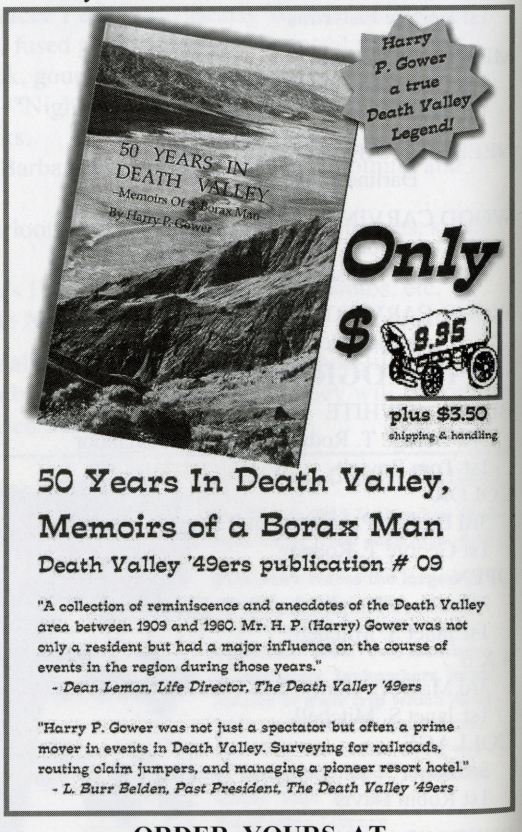
by 1st Vice President Danny Ray Thomas

Danny Ray Thomas

This year's Historical Breakfast was presented by Mr. Ted Goodwin, the son of Death Valley National Monuments first Superintendent, Mr. T. R. Goodwin.

Ted shared with the audience, his memories of what it was like to be a part of the early growth of the monument by relating the responsibilities he had while working along side the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.) boys building roads and structures.

Today we take a lot of what our park has to offer for granted. It was by the hard work and perseverance of young men just like Ted, who gave us the opportunity to drive to and through this wonderland we call Death Valley. *Thank You* Ted


Harry P. Gower a true Death Valley Legend!
50 YEARS IN DEATH VALLEY
-Memoirs Of A Borax Man-
By Harry P. Gower
Only
$ 9.95
plus $3.50 shipping & handling

50 Years In Death Valley, Memoirs of a Borax Man

Death Valley '49ers publication # 09

"A collection of reminiscence and anecdotes of the Death Valley area between 1909 and 1960. Mr. H. P. (Harry) Gower was not only a resident but had a major influence on the course of events in the region during those years."
- Dean Lemon, Life Director, The Death Valley '49ers

"Harry P. Gower was not just a spectator but often a prime mover in events in Death Valley. Surveying for railroads, routing claim jumpers, and managing a pioneer resort hotel."
- L. Burr Belden, Past President, The Death Valley '49ers

ORDER YOURS AT
www.DeathValley49ers.org

!!! BIG SUCCESS !!!

"Southwest Mining, Minerals, Lapidary and Craft Show"

Every Day During The Encampment

Furnace Creek Ranch at the Borax Museum
Open daily 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

59TH DEATH VALLEY 49ERS ENCAMPMENT 2008
NOVEMBER 5 - 9

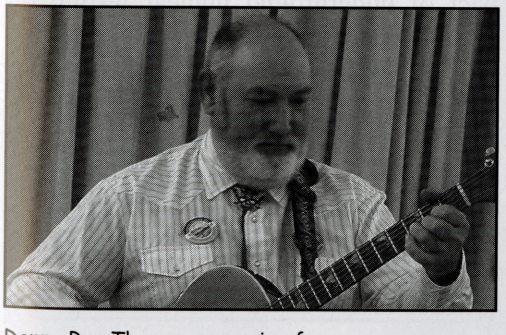
'49ers BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS OPEN TO MEMBERSHIP TALK, EAT, LAUGH, MEET NEW PEOPLE, BE ENTERTAINED

by Director Ken Lengner

Every two months your Death Valley '49ers Executive Board, Board of Directors and Committees meet. With the exception of the Executive Board, meetings are open to all members. Frequently we meet at Ridgecrest, California. The November meeting was held after the Encampment at Furnace Creek Visitor Center. Many of you attended that meeting. The January meeting was held at Stovepipe Wells Village. Much of what you read about in the News Magazine is discussed at the meetings and the future coarse of the organization and Encampment are charted. After the meetings, we get together for a Happy Hour, a fine dinner, and entertainment. Because we are regular guests, the hotels always prepare great meals. At the January meeting, we had quite a few of the past presidents attending.

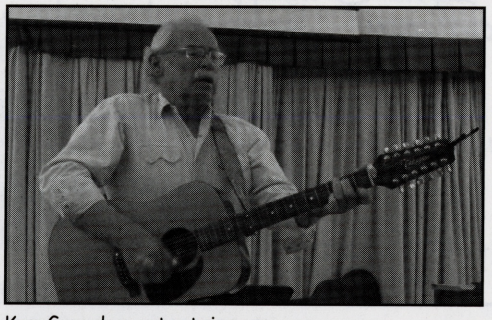
Past Presidents (l to r): Bob Logsdon, Lee Crosby, Dave Heffner, Phee Graydon, Ray Sisson, Marv Jensen. Current President, Dick Gering. Past President Ken Graydon was off tuning his guitar. *Thomas*

Entertainment can consist of things such as music or Death Valley related slide shows. January's entertainment included the songs



Danny Ray Thomas preparing for a song. *Thomas*

of Danny Ray Thomas (First VP) who got everyone moving, and broke a few windows with the tune *Kaw-Liga*. Ken Graydon (Past President) entertained with songs and cowboy poetry. Although I am not known as a particular lover of poetry, I was amazed at how good and relevant Ken's poetry was. After the show, I told him his poetry wasn't half bad… I guess that also means half good. I think I'll attend the Cowboy Poetry event at the next Encampment.



Ken Graydon entertains. *Thomas*

The outstanding duet of Jean Pickard (Director) and Don Truby (Advisor). sang some great songs they are recording. You remember them from their performances at the Encampment.

Don Truby and Jean Pickard singing one of their ballads. *Thomas*

Remember, all Death Valley '49er members are welcome. Come find out what's happening, find a committee you may want to work on, meet new friends, and enjoy yourselves.

2008 Death Valley '49ers Meetings Place & Time

March 15th General Meeting 2:00PM
Heritage Inn
1050 North Norma Street
Ridgecrest, CA. 93555
(800) 843-0693

May 17th General Meeting 2:00PM
Heritage Inn
1050 North Norma Street
Ridgecrest, CA. 93555
(800) 843-0693

July 19th General Meeting 2:00PM
TBD
TBD
Lone Pine, CA. ?

September 20th General Meeting 2:00PM
Heritage Inn
1050 North Norma Street
Ridgecrest, CA. 93555
(800) 843-0693

DISCOVER THE OLD WEST IN BEATTY NEVADA

by Debbie Wilkinson

One-hundred and four years ago Beatty was a bustling railroad center that supplied many mining towns with everything they needed. Rhyolite was in its early years and the mining booms were still on going.

We have a special activities planned for our annual Beatty Days Celebration. It will be held October 31st through November 2nd, just before the Death Valley '49er Encampment.

In celebration of the automobile's part in history, Beatty Days will once again hold an annual car show which will have motor vehicles from antique cars and trucks to the classic muscle cars of the 60's and 70's.

In keeping with the historical venue; Wagon Rides will be available throughout the day and there will be a historical costume contest, old west shoot outs, a quick-draw contest, and a historical reenactment.

As with every year, there will be the annual International Chili Society sanctioned Regional Chili cook-off. Winners of this cook-off will take a spot in the World Chili Cook-off competition with a purse of $20,000 or more. There will be Dutch oven cook-off on Sunday. Both competitions will be decided by "people's choice."

This year Beatty Days will offer the third annual Bike Show and Biker Games. The games will include such classics as the *Weiner Bite* and the *Slow Race.* Each one is a contest of skill with a bit of whimsy built in! A new game from last year was *Honey I'm Home.* This game starts with the rider reclining comfortably on a cot or "bed", when they hear the frightening phrase: "Honey I'm Home!" They must then jump up, dive through a window, run to their bike and start it, and ride a specified distance before the angry spouse fills their behind with buckshot! This is a fantastically fun event!

Once again, the celebration will open Friday night with the sounds of music in the park. Additional activities will include: music; food, craft, and entertainment vendors; a small engine display; a model railroad display; and crowning a celebration Princess and Jr. Princess.

While many of the events are still in the planning stages, you can anticipate many of the old favorites to entertain you again! Last year, we had children's carnival rides, set up at the last minute and we hope to have them back again.

So if you are looking for some late season outdoor excitement, come on out to Beatty, Nevada, October 31st through November 2nd, for some fun & sun and help us celebrate our 104th Birthday!

Sewing by Nancy

Nancy Lee Graves
(619) 449-2896
550 Tuttle Lane
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ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE SOLAR POWER FOR XANTERRA

from Xanterra Newsletter

Xanterra Parks and Resorts is installing the largest privately owned solar facility in the country. The one megawatt (1MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) system will harness the sun's energy to generate nearly one-third of the Furnace Creek Inn & Ranch Resort's electricity every year and push Xanterra's company wide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions over 20%. Designed to withstand the harsh Death Valley environment for a quarter of a century, Xanterra's PV system will eliminate the emission of more than 24,000 tons of greenhouse gases. "We're extremely excited about this project that will allow Furnace Creek, and its guests, to decrease our environmental impacts while increasing our energy independence. Initial site work may cause noise or other disturbances. We're doing absolutely everything we can to minimize the impact to guests, especially the Death Valley '49ers Encampment. By looking at the itinerary, we're trying to schedule our workaround nearby events" said Dominie Lenz, General Manager of Furnace Creek. Xanterra has contracted with SPG Solar Inc. of Novato, California for the installation. SPG Solar has installed more than 500 commercial and residential PV systems tied to electric grids. The system should be operational by March 2008, producing 2.2 million kwh per year of clean, renewable energy – enough to power more than 400 average sized American homes – while requiring virtually no maintenance.

STOVEPIPE WELLS WHEELBARROW RACE

by Advisor Chuck Fiske

Once again the wheelbarrow race was hosted by Dave and Bev Stomps and was a great success. Held immediately following the Prospector Race, the course was quickly set up. There was great participation with about 50 contestants, many of which were also members of E. Clampus Vitus. There are a lot of the same participants year after year and it seems that a few friendly grudge matches have developed. This year "Men's Division" required a run off to declare a champion. This event is a great draw for the children who attend the encampment and we now have a girls and boys class along with the men and women classes. With all the volunteer help this year the races were completed well before dark with all contestants being able to compete. Come out and enjoy the fun at the 2008 Encampment.

Water, water everywhere, as this young contestant splashes his way over an obstacle.
Czajka

GENNE NELSON ...GEOLOGIST, DEATH VALLEY NPS RANGER, DEATH VALLEY '49ER, AND AUTHOR

by The Old Death Valley Biographer

Genne Nelson received her Bachelor of Science in Geology from Auburn University and her Masters of Science from University of Arizona. Currently she is living in Amargosa Valley, Nevada.

She first moved to the Death Valley area in 1994 spending her first few years as curator of the Furnace Creek Ranch Borax Museum which she remodeled.

Genne has recently joined the Death Valley NPS staff as the permanent Hydrologic Technician for Death Valley. Previously she was part of the Yucca Mountain Project where she supported well drilling and geologic sampling projects for scientific study. She was also active in the Community Advisory Board for Nevada Test Site Environmental Projects, with special emphasis on the impact of underground nuclear testing on groundwater supplies down gradient of the Nevada Test Site.

Genne is also a Death Valley '49er Advisor working on the Publications and History Committees. Together with Ken Lengner, she is working on a Death Valley '49er book on the history of Furnace Creek.

Death Valley '49ers Keepsakes and Books

Past Death Valley '49ers Keepsakes and books are on sale at the Visitor Center. Also, look at the great selection of Death Valley Natural History Association books available.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP THE DEATH VALLEY '49ER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM?

As you plan for your future consider a bequest to the Death Valley '49er Educational Program. Give a deserving student the gift of education.

To find out how call 559-297-5691

BORAX SMITH'S TRACTION ROAD

Part II

by 1st Vice President Danny Ray Thomas

In part one of this article, Dave Heffner and I completed the "Northern Half" of Borax Smiths 104 year old, 118 mile long Traction Road. But Summer was fast approaching so we had to wait for Fall to reappear so we could venture out and circumnavigate the "Southern Half" of this road which has almost been lost to history.

Dave and his wife Diane showed up at our 'Glow In The Dark Ranch' in the Amargosa Valley around the first part of October and we immediately started making plans and prepping up for our next adventure into the outback of Nevada & California.

The outback is still a correct statement because the southern half of Borax Smith's Traction Road does not come close to any cities, towns, or communities, except for the Stateline gambling establishment of Primm, Nevada on Interstate 15.

Dave & I left the Amargosa early in the morning and headed straight into Pahrump, Nevada for some supplies and to top off our fuel tanks before heading south on highway 160.

We turned west onto the Old Spanish Trail Highway and headed for the spot where the Traction Road crossed the asphalt. The Traction Road had gone mostly back to nature in this area because of the soft sandy soil, so it was a good thing we took GPS coordinates of the turn off last spring so that it would be easier for us to find.

Even with the GPS coordinates, we had to get out of our 4X4's and walk up and down the highway before we actually found last springs stopping point and this falls starting point. Fortunately we soon found the Traction Roads mark on the desert, turned south, and started heading into the past.

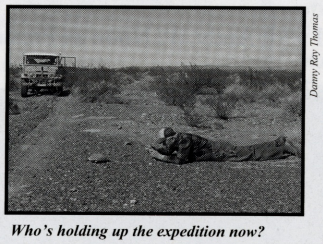
This part of the Traction Road meandered through Mesquite Valley staying close to the western slopes and it wasn't long before we actually crossed over the original Old Spanish Trail. A little farther down the Traction Road we would again run parallel to the Old Spanish Trail for approximately 5 miles before crossing it one more time.

It was in this area that you could look across Mesquite Dry Lake to the northeast and see the farming community of Sandy Valley. In this area the Traction Road had been bladed into a field access road called, "Two Hawk Ranch Road". I also noticed that once we crossed Kingston Road, the Traction Roads name changed to "Texas Lane".

Dave Heffner

Local Pedestrian!

At this point our expedition came to a complete stop. We couldn't continue because we had a pedestrian crossing the Traction Road in front of us. And I must say that he was taking his sweet time doing it too!



Danny Ray Thomas

Who's holding up the expedition now?

Anyhow, after the hold up, we were back on the road, the Traction Road that is. Seeing as how it was starting to get late, it was time to find a spot to camp for the night. Soon that problem was taken care of for us because one of our mules threw a shoe, or should I say that "Ole Two Shovels" got a flat. Seeing as how we had to stop and re-shoe the beast we decided to spend the night right where we were. Which by the way, was the north end of Stateline Pass Road, which just so happens to be Borax Smith's Traction Road also.

After breakfast, we loaded up and prepared for the journey over the pass. This pass had been used by many travelers in the past and at one time was a regular route in and out of the Mesquite Valley area. Few venture this way anymore.

Heading up the northern face presented no problems at all. However, going down the southern face we soon encountered an area where a large wash had wiped the Traction Road right off the side of the mountain. There was a 20' drop down to the bottom of the wash so we had to turn around and backtrack until we found a spot to cross over the wash and up onto the wagon road on the other side.

We stayed on this road, keeping an eye on the Traction Road across the wash, and soon realized that both roads came together again just a little farther down the hill. Also, stretched out in front of us we could see Ivanpah Dry Lake as well as the state line casinos of Primm.

Dropping down onto the dry lake bed, and still traveling on the Traction Road, we soon found our way blocked by that miracle of modern conveyance, Interstate 15. There being no way under or over, we had to find a way around. We did that by leaving the Traction Road, driving into Primm and out the other side, back onto the dry lake bed, and finally back onto the Traction Road on the south side of Interstate 15.

We made good time crossing Ivanpah Dry Lake and soon were at the intersection of Nipton Road and Ivanpah Road. This is the second time we have found a part of the old Traction Road that has been surfaced for modern use. Now it remained paved all the way to the end of our journey at the cross roads of the old town site of Ivanpah and the Union Pacific Railroad.

This is where "Borax Smith" brought "Ole Dinah" and a couple of borax wagons for the trial run to the Lila C. Mine. "Ole Dinah" just didn't have the steam in her to make it up and over Stateline Pass so the idea was abandoned in favor of a more lucrative venture in the form of the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad.

It has been said that "Borax Smith" knew the Traction Road was not going to work, and that he was going to have rails put down after "Ole Dinah" had her less than glorious run. The gallant but ineffectual lady was hauled back to Ivanpah by a large team of mules (the indignity of it all), loaded onto a flatbed rail car, and sent back to Boron.

Smith sent out a team of surveyors to do a feasibility study, but soon found that some of the grades were too steep and that some of the curves were too tight to lay track down for use as a railroad.

So the Traction Road was abandoned and, except for a few isolated places, has not been used since. For over 100 years, this road has laid idle waiting for a moment of recognition in the part it played in the opening of the west's many hidden wonders and treasures.

Now we have traveled this road once again and at least for a little while, Borax Smith's Traction Road has not been forgotten.

Danny Ray Thomas

Photo by Dave Heffner

This picture was taken on the southern side of Stateline Pass.
Borax Smith's Traction Road is heading due south.
Just around the bend to the left is the town of Primm on the NV/CA Stateline.

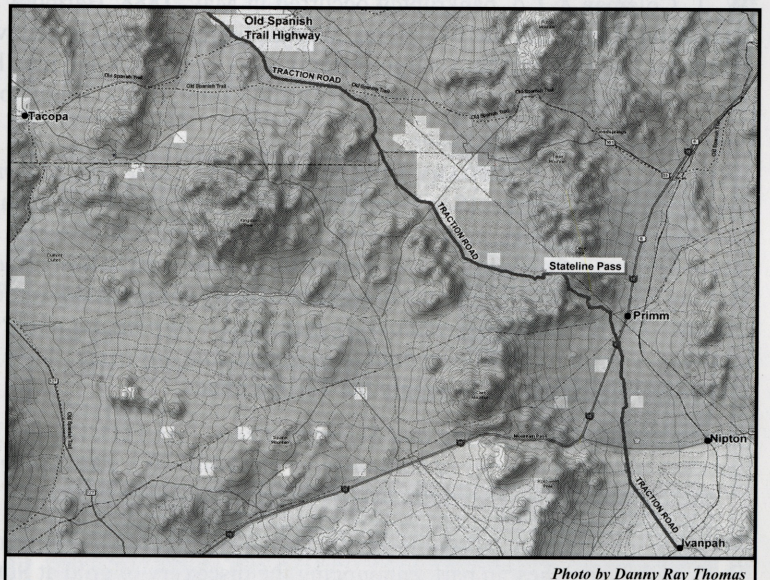


Photo by Danny Ray Thomas

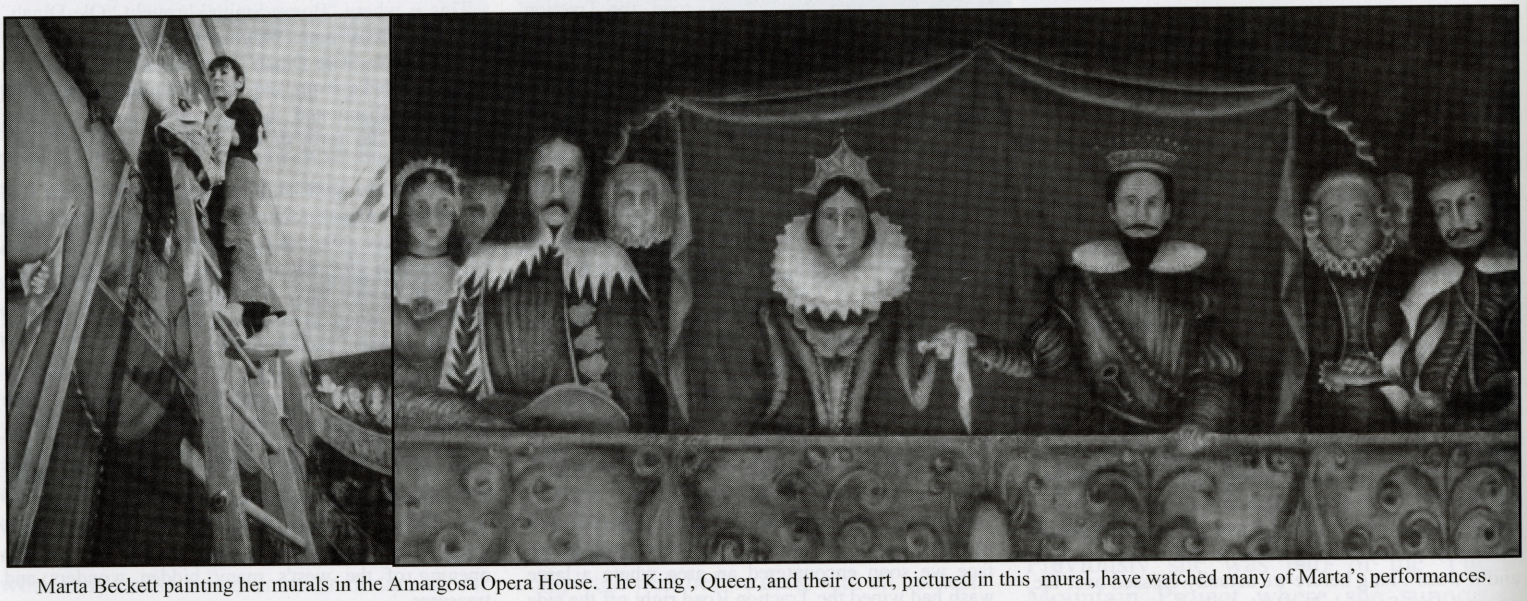
The Southern half of Borax Smith's Traction Road.
In some places, the traction road was completely gone.
Hey! This road hasn't been maintained for over 100 years.

Death Valley Days Gone By
...as seen by the Old Traveler

November 16, **1988** the skeletal remains of a Goleta couple missing for nearly three years were found in a shallow grave in the Saline Valley. The couple had been staying at Saline Hot Springs. They disappeared on a walk in the desert, January 6, 1986.

February 10, **1968** was the Grand Opening of the Amargosa Opera House. After having fixed the building as good as possible in a short time, Marta Beckett put on the first show at Corkill Hall renamed the Amargosa Opera House. In July, Marta decided to paint murals on the walls to make it appear as if there was a sixteenth century Renaissance audience attending the opera. The King and Queen with their nobility, nuns, monks, gypsies, and bullfighters brought the walls to life. It took four years to complete painting the walls. She spent the next two years painting murals on the ceiling.

In November, **1948**, the Death Valley Forty-Niners were formed with Andy W. Noon as President and Maury L. Sorrells as Vice-President.



Marta Beckett painting her murals in the Amargosa Opera House. The King , Queen, and their court, pictured in this mural, have watched many of Marta's performances.

In **1928**, the 81-mile road from San Bernardino County line to Shoshone, on to Death Valley Junction and to Furnace Creek was built.

April 25, **1908** *Skidoo News*: "**MURDER IN CAMP, MURDERER LYNCHED WITH GENERAL APPROVAL,** JOE SIMPSON SHOOTS JIM ARNOLD DEAD AND IS HANGED BY CITIZENS, *The disturbance which has shaken this community to the roots in the past few days...*"

W. T. Coleman & Co. bankruptcy occurred in May, **1888**. Harmony Borax Mining Co. closed never to reopen. A caretaker was found for Greenland Ranch and the two Borax Works. Jimmy Dayton is believed to have become the caretaker of Greenland Ranch. At some time, Philander Lee became the Amargosa Borax works caretaker and may have functioned in that roll at Harmony, also. Three of the 5-sets of 20-mule team wagons were sent outside of Death Valley. Borax Smith bought two sets for his Borate to Daggett route.

June 1, 1878, *Inyo Independent*:
"RETURN OF THE BOUNDARY LINE SURVEYORS - ...*the safe return of the Inyo-San Bernardino boundary line surveying party under Joe Seeley,...The two parties* [San Bernardino Surveyor Fred Paris's team and the Inyo County Surveyor Joe Seeley's team] *worked together. At the point of separation, near Tecona* [sic, Tecopa], *Paris had twelve days' travel (300 miles) to reach home; Seely nine days'. Tecona* [sic, Tecopa] *(about the size of Cerro Gordo) is in this* [Inyo] *county, but within three hundred yards of the line. Middle Resting Springs* [sic, Resting Spring], *which is on the headwaters [east] of the Amargosa River, is five miles northward* [sic, northeastward], *therefore also in this county. The furnace there employs 41 men, and is turning out about a ton of$900 base bullion per day. ...San Bernardino is their base for supplies. A good road is being built to accommodate this trade.* Inyo got Tecopa and Resting Spring on its tax rolls bur San Bernardino merchants and freighters got to supply the Tecopa mines.

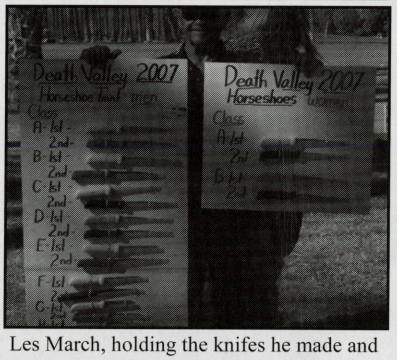
November 23, **1868**, *Mining and Scientific Press:* "ALTITUDE OF DEATH VALLEY. *Prof. Whitney presented a paper from Major Williamson, detailing a series of barometrical observations... This valley is stated in the Geological reports to be about 150 feet below the level of the sea, and is further remarkable for the pecularity of its flora.*"

May, **1848** Kit Carson, accompanied by Lieutenant George D. Brewerton and approximately a dozen men, left Los Angeles for Washington D. C. with dispatches, in part, announcing the discovery of gold at Sutter's sawmill. They journeyed along the Old Spanish Trail from Los Angeles to Taos. They would have stopped at Resting Spring (southeast of Shoshone) possibly meeting famed mountain man Joseph Redford Walker at that location. Walker was driving a herd of horses east.

HORSESHOES CONTEST

by Death Valley 49er Director Nancy Graves

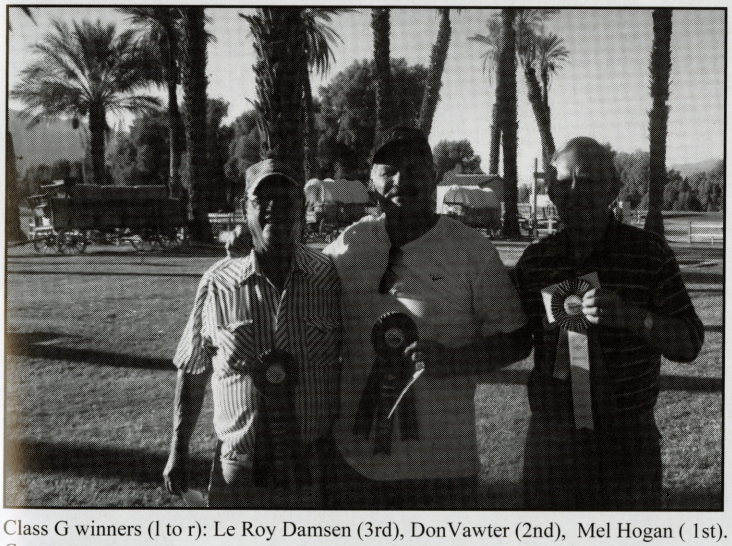
We had a pretty darn good Horseshoe pitching tournament this year! The winners took home ribbons and additional prizes. Larry and Ida Baker donated some really nice prizes. Also, Les March made some beautiful knifes that were given as prizes. Next year, we want to see a few more men to fill all the classes.



Les March, holding the knifes he made and donated as tournament prizes. *Graves*

Results for the men's classes are as follows:

A Class: Ramon Duke, 1st; Walt Bowman, 2nd; Jerry Harper, 3rd.
B Class: Louie Bazen, 1st; Verlyn Dunn, 2nd; Bob Morris, 3rd.
C Class: Harris Salie, 1st; Les March, 2nd; Arien Bofvetook, 3rd.
D Class: Bud Flenniken, 1st; Bill Outlaw, 2nd; Lloyd Van Duyn, 3rd.
E Class: John Vandermeer, 1st; Jerry Carter, 2nd; Bob Biddle, 3rd.
F Class: Larry Meisinger, 1st; Dan Gehm, 2nd; Robert Bird; 3rd.
G Class: Mel Hogan, 1st; Don Vawter, 2nd; Le Roy Damsen, 3rd.



Class G winners (l to r): Le Roy Damsen (3rd), DonVawter (2nd), Mel Hogan (1st). *Graves*

Results for the women's classes are as follows:

A Class: Sandy Howard, 1st; Lori Harper, 2nd; Donna Smith, 3rd.
B Class: Helen Beck, 1st; Linda Gehm, 2nd; Lupe Thompson, 3rd.

Many, many thanks to Wayne and Sandy Howard for all the help at the table, all the scorekeepers, and Karen Gregerson for all the computer work! Karen really made Barbara Reber and my job a lot easier.

If you like to Pitch Horseshoes, come on over and get in on the fun! Qualifying is on Monday, November 3rd, **BEFORE** Encampment!

HELP!

Your Organization is looking for highly motivated, energetic, fun loving members to become Death Valley '49er ADVISORS!

Come to the meetings and see what its all about

100 Oliver Ave, Shoshone, Ca.
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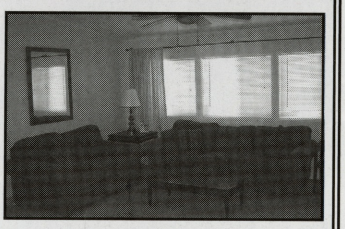

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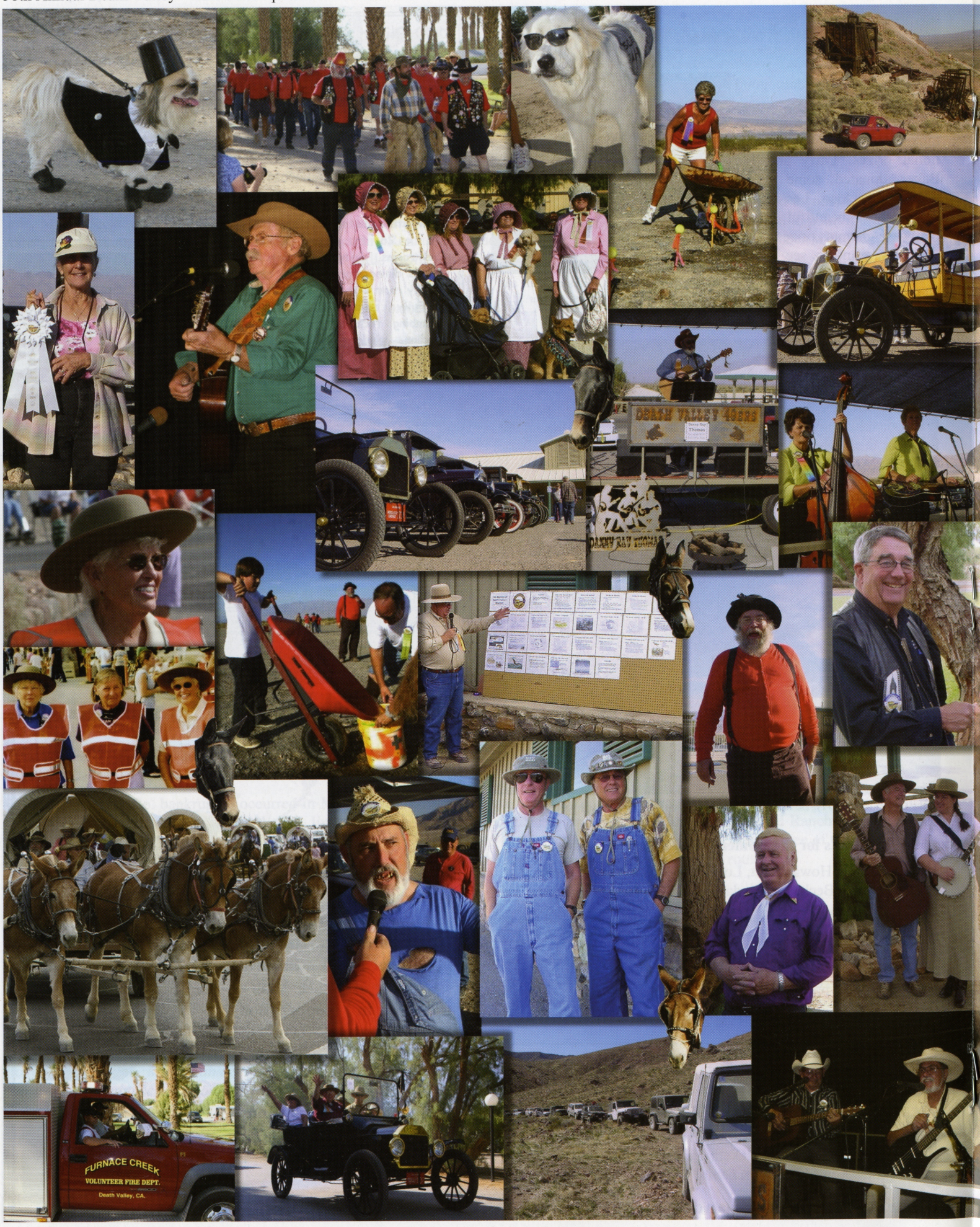
Death Valley Natural History Association

The Death Valley Natural History Association is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the natural and cultural history of Death Valley area in cooperation with our government partners.

(800) 478-8564 dvnha.org


FURNACE CREEK
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.
Death Valley, CA.

DEATH VALLEY CAMPERS
DEATH VALLEY 49ERS
DEATH VALLEY 49'er MEMBERSHIPS
DEATH VALLEY 49'er MEMBERSHIPS
Some Death Valley Flowering Plants
Red Hat Society

TAMARISK AND OTHER INVASIVE PLANT REMOVAL FROM DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

by Jenney Harder, Resource Management Administrative Support and Kirsten Lund, Exotic Vegetation Technician, Death Valley National Park

Plants that are not native to Death Valley are considered invasive and undesirable in the National Park because of the impact they have on the plants, animals, soil, water and landscape that are found here under natural conditions. Tamarisk trees are particularly destructive due to the amount of water they consume and the rapidity with which they spread and replace indigenous plants.

A Nevada Conservation Crew (NCC) was in Death Valley National Park working with Botanist Michele Slaton and Exotic Vegetation Technician Kirsten Lund from Nov 26th through December 3rd removing tamarisk throughout the Park, particularly in the areas of the Amargosa River, Furnace Creek, Cow Creek and Stovepipe Wells Sand Dunes. The NCC labor crew returned for another session along with the Lake Mead Exotic plant team December 10th - 17th. Removal of exotic palms was also part of this effort. Recently Volunteers Mark Fugi and Kathryn Mazaika came to Death Valley National Park for their first ever visit during Christmas week and spent two of their vacation days removing tamarisk. One day they spent hand pulling seedlings and cutting saplings near Travertine Spring. Another day was spent with Kirsten at Tuber Canyon on the west side of the Panamints where they removed tamarisk interspersed among other riparian vegetation (willows, sedges, blue stem, and iris). While at Tuber Canyon, they observed an abundance of bighorn sheep scat, coyote sign, icicles forming at a small water fall, and the remains of a dead burro that appeared to be the victim of a mountain lion.

A multiple-day, March tamarisk removal trip to the Saline Valley is planned by Death Valley '49ers Dave Heffner, Doug Shearer, Danny Ray Thomas, Mike Donahue, and Ken Lengner.

Death Valley '49ers interested in helping conduct surveys to help identify tamarisk locales and/or help remove seedlings and saplings, please contact Botanist Michele Slaton at (760) 786-3233 or Michele_Slaton@NPS.gov

It is anticipated that Death Valley '49er Director Ken Lengner will help lead 4wd trip (s) aimed at tamarisk location and removal during the 2008 Encampment.

NEW DEATH VALLEY ROADSIDE EXHIBITS IN THE PLANNING STAGE

by Director Ken Lengner

The Death Valley '49ers along with E. Clampus Vitus are joining with the National Park Service in defining a program to upgrade and expand the roadside exhibits in Death Valley National Park. The effort is chaired by Terry Baldino, Chief of Interpretation. David Blacker will represent the Death Valley Natural History Association. Sid Blumner represents E. Clampus Vitus while Ken Lengner represents the Death Valley '49ers. An initial coordination meeting was held in December 2007. A two day meeting to discuss and prioritize exhibits was held on February 20th and 21st.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR QUILTING PROJECT TO RAISE FUNDS FOR DEATH VALLEY '49ER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

by Death Valley 49er Secretary Nan Gering and Director Nancy Graves

Hi all you Death Valley '49ers.

We will be making a Quilt to raffle off at the 2008 Encampment! The theme will be all the past cloisonné.

How did this all come about? Nan Gering and I were talking of ways to raise funds for Death Valley '49er Educational Programs. Nan stated that she has been taking a Quilting class and it has been a lot of fun and said, "Let's make one and raffle it." I said, "Maybe we could incorporate the past Cloisonné` in the squares of the quilt!" That's how it started.

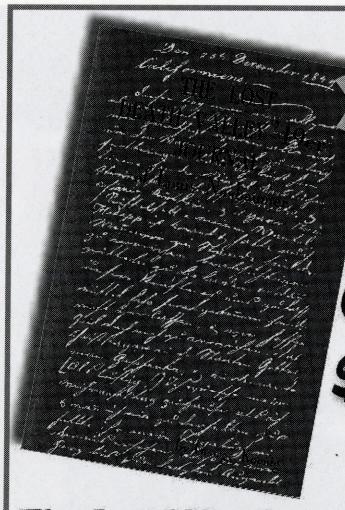
I will put together Packets with the "9 x 9" squares with all the fabric that is needed for each Cloisonné, along with the "Steam A Seam" used to hold the pieces in place on the block.

REMEMBER! The finished squares will need to be with Nan by July 1st so she can assemble the top! I will then do the batting and the backing and finish the quilt. There will be a total of 25 blocks.

Please call or email me (Nancy Graves) if you would like to help:

Nancy Graves, 550 Tuttle Lane, El Cajon, Ca. 91021-1046, 619-449-2896, jgraves@tns.net

Nan Gering , P.O. Box 212, Lone Pine, Ca. 93545, 760 876– 4284, nangering@yahoo.com



Only $6.95 plus $3.50 shipping & handling

The Lost '49er Journal of Louis Nusbaumer

Death Valley '49ers publication # 11

Louis Nusbaumer (1819-1878), was a German immigrant that left New York City in March, 1849, traveled to Independence, Missouri and there began his trip overland with William Lewis Manly and John Rogers to California. This is the story of his journey, which was kept in two small notebooks, recovered in 1966, illustrated throughout with drawings, photos and maps. Made available here by the Death Valley '49ers Organization.

Order On Line At

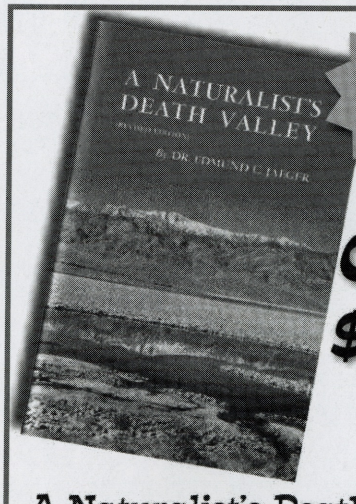
www.DeathValley49ers.org

Check the Death Valley '49ers web site often

www.DeathValley49ers.org

Web Master

DANNY RAY THOMAS



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A Naturalist's Death Valley

Death Valley '49ers publication # 05

A Naturalist's Death Valley is a primer to help the thousands of admiring visitors to Death Valley National Park get a general picture of wild flowers, trees, shrubs, reptiles, birds, insects, mammals, fossils and Native Americans.

Dr. Edmund C. Jaeger was a nationally known naturalist who authored many books on the flora & fauna of California.

DEATH VALLEY IN THE SPRING OF 1875... OR WHY I AM GLAD I WASN'T THERE

by Director Ken Lengner

In 1873, silver was discovered in the northern Panamint Mountains, the boom was on, and the mining town of Panamint sprang up. In late 1874, silver was discovered in the Darwin area. By 1875, Panamint was in decline and Darwin in the ascendancy. The years were a maelstrom of myriad activities. Violence was high on the list as attested to by the first half of 1875.

March 13, 1875, *Inyo Independent*:
"**Man Killed in Darwin**, *...a difficulty occurred between S. Ashim and a young Sclavonian* [Slovenian] *named Nick. Perasich, which ended in the instant death of the latter... There being no officer in Darwin, the citizens requested* [Edward Allen] *Ned Reddy to select such help as he thought proper."* Gunmen Jin Bruce and Dave Neagle were in Darwin at the time of the shooting and carried the news to Panamint. Lawyer Pat Reddy, Ned's brother, latter got Ashim acquitted. [Pat got just about everyone acquitted.]
"**Get Your Guns Ready**, *Reports from Darwin City give alarming accounts of the proceedings of Lieutenant Chavez* [then current version of Joaquin Murietta] *and his band. At Borax Lake they captured eleven horses and took the station keeper, hostler, and another man and started off into the mountains...".*
"**Rose Canyon**, *R. B. Parker lately in from Rose Canyon district brings some very glowing accounts of the great size and richness of its mines. The most prominent of those is the Garibaldi..."*
"**Suicide in Panamint**, ...[John] *Murphy made two attempts on his life, the first by trying to beat his brains out with a rock or upon rocks, the second and successful one by cutting his throat. ...He had been drinking much of late..."* [Unlike the *Independent*, The *Panamint News*, March 6, reported that James H. Earle of Panamint had been drinking too much and cut his own throat, nothing being said about him trying to beat his brains out with a rock or a man called Murphy. It seems to be a bizarre way of committing suicide.]

Silver town of Panamint located in Surprise Canyon, northwestern Panamint Mountains. Main Street twisted up Surprise Canyon, "*a mile long and a thousand feet higher at the top than at the bottom."* It was a violent city. *DEVA*

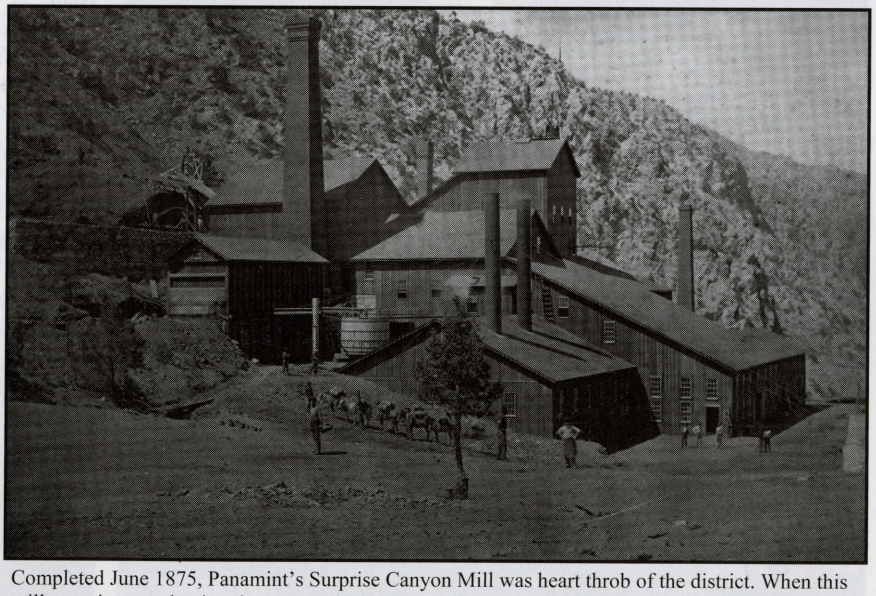
March 17, 1875 after having his Panamint stage robbed by Charles Castle and James Wellock, stagedriver W. J. Ladd tracked down the robbers and captured them at gunpoint.

March 22, 1875 Jim Bruce shot and killed Ed Barstow who had forced his way into Panamint madam Martha Camp's bedroom and attempted to shoot Bruce who was occupying Ms. Camp's bed at the time of the shooting.

Postal service was extended from Cerro Gordo to Panamint, six times per week, effective April 1, 1875 [at last, something peaceful].

April 12, 1875 An argument about the ownership of a horse led to Thomas Star fatally shooting William Russell at Star's Darwin stable.

April 16, 1875 there was a gunfight between Jim Bruce who was wounded and Robert McKenney (McKinley?) who was killed.



Completed June 1875, Panamint's Surprise Canyon Mill was heart throb of the district. When this mill went into production, it processed 35-40 tons of ore per day. *DEVA*

May 23, 1875, *Inyo Independent*:
"**The Cavalry**, *Co. "I," 1st U. S. Cavalry, Capt. C. C. Carr Commanding, ...to march by way of Camp Independence, to the Panamints and Coso region to look after the recent disturbances* [Mexican bandits].
"**Bandit Shot and Killed**, ... Two bandits approached Prewitt's station, in the Coso area, and failed to stop approaching the location after being warned numerous times by John Spratt who grabbed a Henry rifle and fired a series of rounds wounding one of the bandits. Subsequently, Spratt and Prewett trailed the wounded bandit who fired on them. They returned fire and killed Jose Maria Guerro who was found to be in possession of goods stolen from prior victims.

May 26, 1875 In Panamint, James Buckley bit of the top of a man named Redding's ear. Also, the Panamint stage was robbed in Grapevine Canyon.

June 1875 While in Panamint's Occidental Saloon, Dick Robertson and Jerry Sullivan, both drunk, fired a barrage of bullets at each other, never hitting each other but wounding a bystander.

STOVEPIPE WELLS MUSIC STAGE PROJECT

by 1st Vice President Danny Ray Thomas

During this last encampment, Stovepipe Wells events were well attended and a lot of fun. One of the big hits was the brand new music and events stage.

If you remember, your Fall 2007 Death Valley News Magazine, had an article on the progress of Stovepipe Wells music stage. In this issue we would like to thank all those who helped bring this project to fruition.

First of all, those who provided the sweat of their brow in moving the stage out of the valley and up to the "Glow In The Dark Ranch" in the Amargosa Valley, in preparation for her complete reconstruction, were Past President and Life Director Dave Heffner and Director Gene Butler.

Dave Heffner and I went into Las Vegas and picked up the steel for the project and immediately got started cutting and welding.

Pick Up Stage At Stovepipe Wells

Drop Off Stage At Ranch

Wrecking Crew

Picking Up Steel In Las Vegas

Sub Frame Construction

Frame Construction

Railing Construction

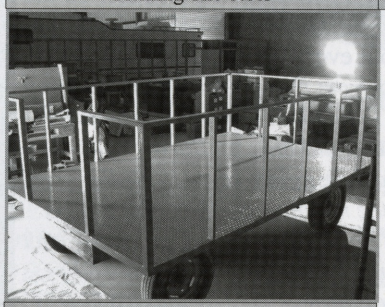
Finish Grinding

Within two weeks, we had finished the sub frame, frame, flooring supports, flooring, hand rail construction welds and finish grinding.

Next, we pickled the steel, primed and painted all this new construction, and let it dry for a month before getting started on the rest of the project. While waiting for the paint to cure, I went online and ordered a number of items for the next phase. These included:

Pickling The Steel

Priming The Steel



Painting The Steel

new tires and rims to fit on the wheel adapters welded up by fellow DV'49er Alan Hinman, a new 80% sun shade and support, as well as new lighting and electrical. I then laid out, cut and welded the detachable steps and hand rails, then worked on making the tongue assembly detachable.

As word started circulating around that this project was well under way, phone calls started coming in from members who wanted to help. To compliment the stage itself, Directors Jim and Nancy Graves built a new propane powered fire pit for the campfire sings, and Jim and Audrey Hoke provided the new "Death Valley '49ers" sign. Donations for the stage included material (e.g. wheel adapters, steel, paint, brushes, steel sign, and electrical components), labor, and cash. A great big THANK YOU to: Alan Hinman (steel, wheel adapters, labor), Gene and Charlotte Butler (primer, paint, brushes, labor), Jim and Audrey Hoke (new steel sign for front of stage, labor), Dave and Diane Heffner (labor, cash), Danny Ray and Cheryl Thomas (labor, cash) and to those all important cash contributors: Walter and Heidi Hodgson, Keith Gaeth, Bruce Farwell, Sally Collins, Dave and Sue Steel, Larry and Ida Baker, Dick and Nan Gering, Marvin Jensen, Don and Peggy Richardson, Anthony and Carol Roselli, Tom and Fran Leftwich, and Elaine Leach.

Here's to another 32 years of entertainment on the Death Valley '49ers, Stovepipe Wells Music & Events Sage.

Photos by Danny Ray Thomas

The finished SPW Stage At Work with "Bill Whitfield and the Old Time Fiddlers" playing during the *Chuck Wagon Lunch.* Note the stage, new signs, and fire pit.

RANGER AUDREY TREVASKIS AND SCOTTY'S LOWER VINE RANCH

by Ranger Audrey Trevaskis

While performing my duties as a seasonal park guide at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley National Park, I am often asked by visitors: "How did you go about getting a job with the National Park Service?" So, I tell them my story in a little briefer form than I am sharing here. I have enjoyed visiting and experiencing western national parks for many years through such activities as overnight backpacking, day hiking and photography. In the spring of 1999 I took an early retirement from a thirty year career as a mental health therapist. My intention was to volunteer in various western parks. I wanted to experience parks on a level much different than that of a visitor. I was looking for in-depth experiences, which I felt volunteering would provide me. Being a "winter park," I chose Death Valley as my first.

I began working at Scotty's Castle as a volunteer interpreter in September of 1999 through April 2000. I returned in October 2000 and departed again the following spring. After performing the same duties as a seasonal park guide for two winters, I got to thinking—"Audrey, you too can wear the gray and the green!" The third year I returned as a seasonal National Park Service park guide. There is something very magical about wearing a National Park Service uniform for the very first time!

I am now into my eighth winter as a seasonal park guide at Scotty's Castle providing living history house tours, Underground Mysteries tours and, more recently, cultural history walks to Scotty's Lower Vine Ranch. You may wonder what happened to my plans of volunteering in other national parks. Like many people who make annual pilgrimages to Death Valley, the desert environment has a strong hold on me. I am captivated by Death Valley's colorful cultural history, which I never tire of learning about, the unique geologic features, its natural history and the opportunity for wild adventures and exploration. Two of my passions are hiking and photography. I can not think of a better place to spend the winter where I can partake in both.

Ranger Audrey Trevaskis, standing at the front door to Scotty's Lower Vine Ranch cabin, talks to guided visitors about Scotty and the ranch. *Lengner*

After I tell visitors my story they then ask: "What park do you work at in the summer?" Most are a bit envious as I share with them that my summers are free and that I spend most of my time pursuing my third passion—trout fishing and backpacking in the Sierra Nevada. After a winter in Death Valley I am ready to hit the trails that take me into the High Sierra basins where the fishing is outstanding and the solitude and scenery refreshing. As October draws near, I once again anticipate my return to Death Valley.

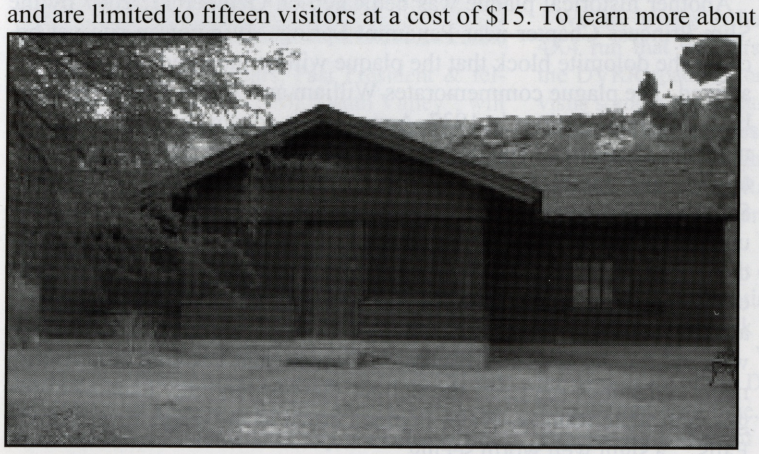
Scotty's kitchen. *Lengner*

The story of Death Valley Scotty Historic District in Death Valley National Park reaches beyond the walls of Scotty's Castle. The Castle was Scotty's stage where he could be the center of attention and entertain guests with his multitude of stories. However, there was a very private side of Scotty that few people from the past had the opportunity to experience.

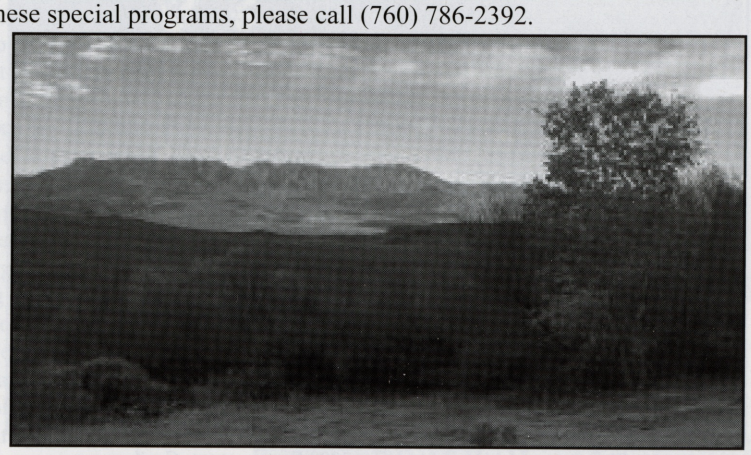
Scotty "squatted" in the vicinity of what is now Lower Vine Ranch as early as 1907 and intermittently lived there during his early Death Valley excursions. He introduced Albert Johnson to Lower Vine as well as upper Grapevine Canyon where the Castle sits. They used Lower Vine as a "base camp" for their Death Valley explorations and prospecting endeavors prior to Johnson acquiring the Castle property.

Lower Vine reveals a side of Scotty that only a few of his closest friends and associates had the opportunity to experience. Scotty lived alone at his Lower Vine Ranch from the spring of 1930 until sometime in 1952. He had no help. He took his laundry to the Castle, often one-hundred white shirts at a time. He cooked for himself and usually ate his meals out in the front yard where he shared his food with his dogs and mules. He spent most of his time alone. His mules and dogs were his constant companions... sometimes his only companions. The passing of each one was a personal loss. Scotty's deteriorating health in 1952 necessitated that he be moved to the Castle where he could be looked after and cared for by others. He never returned to Lower Vine Ranch. Scotty died January 5, 1954 at the age of eighty-two.

Scotty's Lower Vine Ranch is a closed area not normally open to the public. The interpretive staff at Scotty's Castle now offers cultural history walks to Lower Vine Ranch where visitors are offered a glimpse into Scotty's private life. These interpretive programs are offered on select weekends (Friday and Saturday) during the busy winter season from late October thru early April. Programs are offered twice each day and are limited to fifteen visitors at a cost of $15. To learn more about these special programs, please call (760) 786-2392.



Scotty's Ranch House *Lengner*



View of Last Chance Range from Scotty's Lower Vine Ranch *Lengner*

AWARD WINNING NIGHT SKY PHOTOGRAPH AT RACETRACK PLAYA

by Jenny Harder, Admin Support, Death Valley National Park

A photo by park scientist, Dan Duriscoe, was chosen as one of NASA's Astronomy Pictures of the Year for 2007. The image captures three hundred and sixty degrees of Death Valley's Racetrack Playa, surrounding landscape, and the Milky Way Galaxy arching over it in spectacular brilliance. Dan is a physical scientist and NPS Night Sky Team member stationed in Death Valley National Park. A large scale print of the award winning photo is on permanent display in the Resources Management Headquarters Building at Cow Creek in Death Valley National Park.

Looking back over the past year, the editors of the Astronomy Picture of the Day (APOD) decided to list 12 of the more memorable images that have been posted to their website during in 2007. There was no shortage of breathtaking images to choose from -- with robotic cameras orbiting Mars and rolling around its surface, the Cassini spacecraft at Saturn, space telescopes exploring the cosmos, and ground-based imaging with increasingly sophisticated hardware and software. The editors tried to diversify the selection to include spectacular pictures from several different categories.

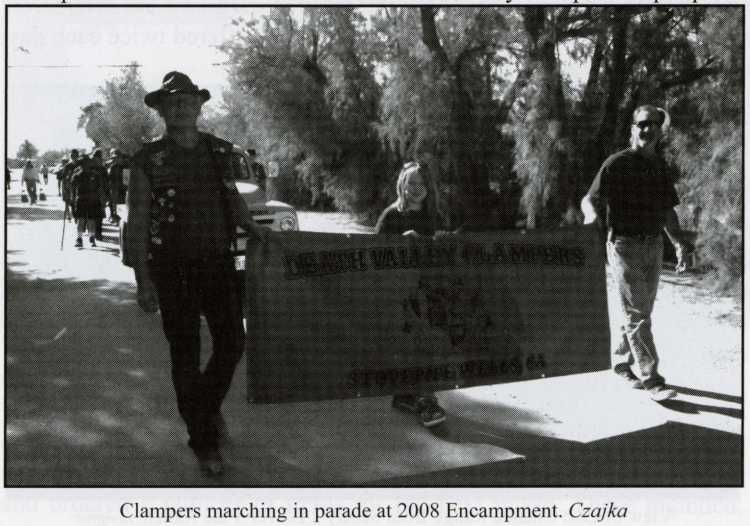
Twelve Astronomy Pictures of the Year (APOY) are highlighted on the website in the order in which they appeared, chronologically. The editors say the selection process was very difficult and in the end more than a little arbitrary. In fact, of these 12 APOYs only one was unanimously selected. Hopefully, you will take a moment to look at the website for the familiar Duriscoe image, taken on DVNP's Racetrack Playa at night. **http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/apoys2007.html**

THE ANCIENT AND HONORABLE ORDER OF E CLAMPUS VITUS PLACES TWO HISTORICAL PLAQUES IN THE DEATH VALLEY REGION

by Sid Blumner and Jack Craikshank, E Clampus Vitus

The Ancient and Honorable Order of E. Clampus Vitus is a regular participant at the Encampment and marches each year in the Parade at Furnace Creek on Saturday morning. They are usually seen at the events in the valley in their red shirts. They often make their temporary headquarters at Stovepipe Wells where they camp and have two pot-luck dinners during the Encampment.

Billy Holcomb Chapter of the Ancient and Honorable Order of E. Clampus Vitus and the Searles Historical Society will place a plaque at the ghost town of Borosolvay, California in the Trona area. The "Clampers" are interested in the recognition of historical places in the western United States. They place historical markers honoring historical events and people. Often their work is done in conjunction with historical societies and government agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the Forest Service.



Clampers marching in parade at 2008 Encampment. *Czajka*

Borosolvay was a community which existed from 1917-21, It was established to provide housing for the people who worked at the potash plant that was built near Searles Dry Lake to process potash for use in World War I. When the war ended and potash once again became available world wide causing the price to drop, the plant was eventually closed. The people of the town moved elsewhere to live and work and the buildings were eventually sold or destroyed. The only major remaining visible evidence of the community is the swimming pool.

Another historical plaque was dedicated on October 17, 2007 by the Slim Princess Chapter near Panamint Springs. It is not on site yet because the dolomite block that the plaque will be mounted on has not yet arrived. The plague commemorates William and Agnes Cody Reid who built Panamint Springs in 1937. Agnes was a cousin of famed frontiersman and showman, "Buffalo Bill" Cody. The Reids had opened a restaurant and motel to accommodate travelers between Darwin and Stovepipe Wells. Bill died in 1945 and Agnes continued operating it until it was sold in 1959. Beginning in 1992, the 40 acre resort was developed to include a restaurant, bar, 15 unit motel, gas station, and convenience store. A campground and RV park is located directly across the street. Panamint Springs is located in a historical region with old mining towns of Panamint, Darwin, and Lookout nearby with many old mines scattered throughout the surrounding Panamint, Argus, and Slate Ranges. Water is piped down to the resort from Darwin Falls… a sight well worth seeing.

DEATH VALLEY RESIDENT AND SCHOLAR, KIRSTEN SHOSHONE TO GRADUATE FROM NOTRE DAME AND EMBARK ON HER CAREER

Kirsten Shoshone was born in neighboring Lone Pine, California, but spent the majority of her life being raised in Death Valley. She attended school at our local Death Valley Elementary and went to middle school and high school in Beatty, Nevada. Kirsten began working for the Death Valley National Park Human Resources office at the age of fourteen. Under Mary Davis' wing, she was able to gain experience in the many functions of human resources and was allowed to venture out and gain exposure in other divisions of the park. In 2003, she was appointed to the STEP (Student Temporary Employment Program) and eventually was eligible to be converted to the SCEP (Student-Career Experience Program) with the National Park Service. Most of her summer and winter breaks during high school and college were spent logging in hours at the office and even in her senior year of high school she worked part-time at the visitor center.

Kirsten Shoshone, Death Valley National Park student employee and Death Valley '49er scholarship recipient graduating from Notre Dame.

In 2004, Kirsten was admitted to the University of Notre Dame and is now entering the last semester of her senior year as a Management Consulting major. During her tenure at Notre Dame, she has been an active member of NASAND (Native American Student Association of Notre Dame) and is currently the club's secretary; she has participated in her dorm's student government as a commissioner and has taken part in intramural volleyball, basketball, and softball. For Kirsten, her time at Notre Dame has provided her with a rigorous academic agenda that has led to intellectual and spiritual growth. She believes that if she had attended any other college, she wouldn't have been able to mature or grow in the same ways that she has at Notre Dame. "Notre Dame is a very special and unique place that needs to be experienced firsthand. I feel very fortunate to be able to say that I have a Notre Dame education. The school encompasses everything that a college student could ever want or dream of wanting".

All of Kirsten's hard work and dedication has recently paid off. In December, she accepted a job offer for a human resources rotational program in Charlotte, North Carolina. She will be working for SPX Corporation, a global multi-industry provider of technical products and systems, industrial products and services, flow technology and service solutions. They are a Fortune 500 company focused on growing high value businesses and they operate in 21 countries and employ more than 23,000 people worldwide. The HR rotational program provides significant exposure to SPX's senior management team and also provides a big-picture view of the corporation while at the same time offering hands-on experiences that aim to build and sharpen human resource competencies in all areas.

Kirsten was selected from among hundreds of candidates to interview with the company. She was eventually offered one of the two positions which will begin in July of 2008. Without the help of many people, Kirsten couldn't have accomplished or been able to take part in the many things that she has. One particular person, Mary Davis, has always been a huge inspiration for Kirsten. "I don't think I could have ever asked for a more kind and encouraging supervisor that honestly cared about my well-being". Without all of her work experience at Death Valley, she doesn't believe she would have been offered the particular job that she was. Kirsten has also received support from her many friends and family here in the park. She was awarded the Death Valley '49er scholarship upon her high school graduation and has been receiving financial aid from the institution all four years of her college career which, along with her other aid, enabled her to not constantly worry about the $40,000 tuition per year.

Kirsten feels very privileged to be able to call Death Valley her home and live in such a unique place. "When I describe or show pictures of Death Valley to other people, they are blown away. I don't think anyone can fully understand or comprehend growing up here, but that's what I like about it. I don't know anyone who can say that they were born on the 4th of July in 128 degree heat and were raised on an Indian reservation in the middle of a National Park that just happens to be the lowest, driest, and hottest place in the Western Hemisphere. That's pretty unique if you ask me."

CHANGES IN OUR ENCAMPMENT 4X4 RUNS

by Director Ken Lengner

After twenty three years, Past President & fellow '49er Dave Heffner, "Mr. Death Valley", will no longer be leading the Death Valley '49ers 4X4 run. Dave, who's busy with new activities, will be greatly missed by all.

Two of Dave's cronies, Ken Lengner and Danny Ray Thomas, will try to step into Dave's shoes.

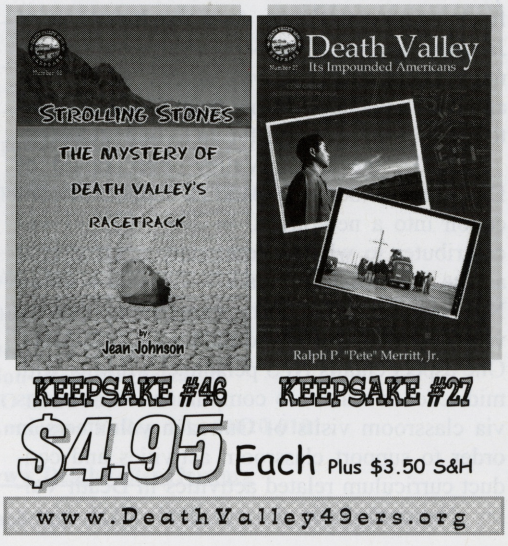
The Badwater Loop run, led by Ken Lengner has been cancelled do to a lack of participation.

'49er Director Cal Steibel will no longer be leading the Cottonwood Canyon 4X4 run. Based on a show of interest, we will conduct a 4X4 run from SPW to Cottonwood Canyon or else where.

The Titus Canyon run will continue as before under the guidance of Director Ken Lengner and Advisor Bennie Troxel.

We are trying to build interest in a "Borax" 4X4 run that wanders out behind Ryan, along the DVRR roadbed, on to the Lila C mine, and visits some other borate mines. Stops on the way would include discussions on history, geology, and biology. We might even be able to wander over the Greenwater Range.

We've had some very preliminary discussions with Death Valley National Park Botanist, Michele Slaton, about organizing a back country trip dedicated to locating and possibly removing some of the Tamarisk trees that are sucking the water out of the Park. We'll keep you advised in the next issue of the Death Valley News Magazine. In the mean time, please email or drop us a postcard for a show of interest.



DEATH VALLEY '49ER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

by Ken Lengner, Larry Baker, Lee Crosby, Edie Pool

The Death Valley '49ers support of education of our young people currently has two facets which are the time tested Scholarship Program and our support of the Outreach Program initiated in 2007. We will investigate other means and solicit your suggestions.

Since 1974, the Death Valley '49ers have awarded scholarships to Death Valley region deserving students wishing to obtain a college education. There have been many success stories resulting from this scholarship program. The article in this issue of the News Magazine on Kirsten Shoshone is one example. Six things have made the Scholarship Program a success. The first is the students selected. The second is the diligent work of the Scholarship Committee, until recently chaired by Nan Gering. This year, Nan is taking the position of Death Valley '49er Secretary. Fortunately, Director Larry Baker will now act as Chairman of the Scholarship Committee. Larry's credentials are impeccable. The third is the efforts of the Endowment Committee chaired by Past President Lee Crosby. That team has insured that contributions have been invested wisely in accounts which provide Endowment Fund growth. The fourth is the hard work of the Art Show Committee which has not only drawn visitors to the Encampment but been a source of funds for the Endowment. Your membership dues help to fund the Art Show which funnels Scholarship Fund contributions to the Endowment Fund. Wanda Elmore has been the Chairman of the Art Show Committee for 5 years. This year Wanda will be chairing the activities for the Southwest Mining, Mineral, Lapidary, and Crafts Show which she initiated last year. Sharon Hearn will return as Chairperson for the Art Show Committee. Of course, the fifth is contributions by the Artists who have generously given a portion of their sales to the Scholarship Fund. The sixth is the generosity of the Death Valley '49er members who continually send in annual contributions as well as having provided some very major bequeaths. Thanks to the above, the Endowment fund is in great shape. As a result, at a joint January meeting of the Scholarship and Endowment Committees, it was agreed to increase annual scholarship funding from $2400 per year to up to $4,000 per year for up to four students.

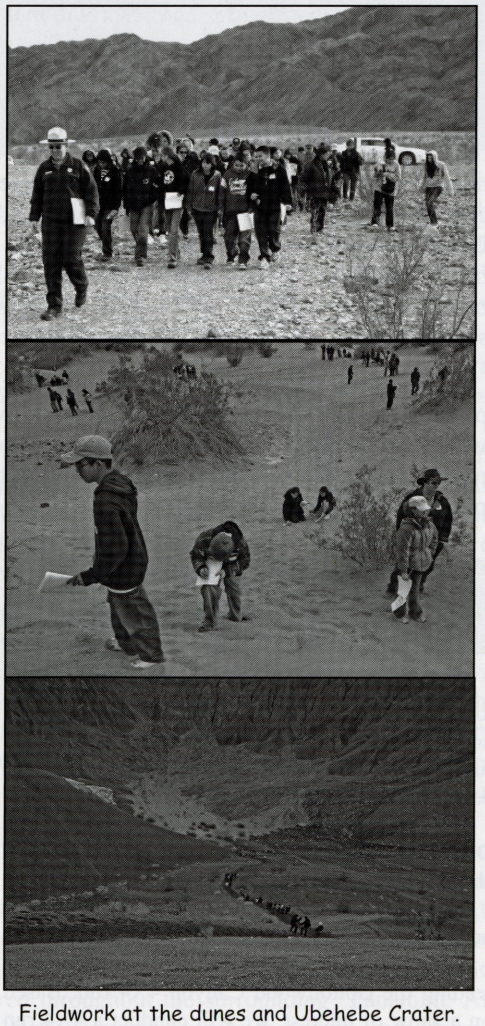
In 2007, the Death Valley '49er Board of Directors decided to expand its support of education into a new arena. In 2007, $2,500 was contributes to what is commonly referred to it as the "Outreach Program." This is a broad NPS program that covers many areas that involve NPS personnel and numerous volunteers. One aspect entails NPS personnel working with mid level educators to compliment curriculums via classroom visits of Outreach volunteers in order to support classroom activities and conduct curriculum related activities in Death Valley National Park. In our Fall 2007 News Magazine issue, we printed a thank you letter from Death Valley National Parks Education Program Administrator, Ranger Nancy Hadlock, and the students. Included therein were pictures of the young students camping out and eating dinner in Breakfast Canyon, visiting Salt Creek, and exploring the desert. Recently the park purchased a trailer, had volunteers put shelves in it, and bought camping gear to fill it. Our financial contributions are focused on providing the transportation of those students to Death Valley. Last year's $2,500 contribution provided transportation for 60 students. Without our contributions, those young people would not have had the chance to experience something entirely new and enlightening to them. Perhaps we helped create some new and fruitful paths for them to follow.

Now we have a scholarship program which provides significant financial aid to a select few while we have another approach which helps many of the younger students in less depth, but facilitates turning on a great many light bulbs. We are covering both ends of the spectrum. We need to continue supporting both approaches.

Rangers visit schools to prepare students.

How do we fund these programs? Membership fees provide the means to conduct the Art Show and provide some Outreach funds. Artists who have donated in the past strictly to the Scholarship Program will now be given the option to donate to the general Education Fund, to the Scholarship Fund, or to the Outreach Program. Any bequeaths can take the same approach. Anyone wishing to send contributions should identify their desired options. Please address correspondence to: Attention Treasurer, Death Valley '49ers, PO Box 338, Death Valley, CA, 92328. Please read this issue's article on "Quilting." It is one way we are helping to finance Outreach. We are looking for additional means and suggestions are very welcome. If you care to donate camping clothes or equipment or if you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Ranger Nancy Hadlock, (760) 786-3226.

Students' are met by the camping trailer, greeted by Superintendent Reynolds, and set up their tents,



Fieldwork at the dunes and Ubehebe Crater.

Photos by Bob Greenberg

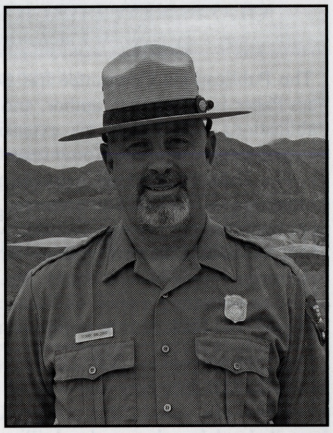
DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK INTERPRETATION/EDUCATION PROGRAMS ARE ON A ROLL

by Terry Baldino, Chief of Interpretation, Death Valley National Park

In 2007, the National Park Service at Death Valley embarked on a quest to enthuse a new generation of park users about the wonders of the park and to get kids into the park. The successes of that first year are carrying over into 2008. Kids – lots of them – will be coming into Death Valley for the first time from urban areas of Las Vegas and Los Angeles. Local kids from surrounding communities will also be taking advantage of this new education program.

It is truly amazing that in a single year so much can be done, so many school contacts can be made, and so much anticipation for the real field trips can occur! Much of the credit goes to the park's new Education Specialist Nancy Hadlock. However, she is not alone in this effort. None of this would be possible without the gracious aid of park partners like the Death Valley Natural History Association who initiated a special education fund to help offset the costs of travel for schools to Death Valley. Additionally, the Death Valley '49ers organization matched this funding and has taken steps to expand their support of Death Valley's education/outreach program. Private donors have also stepped up to the plate and finally the support of the park's superintendent J. T. Reynolds has been instrumental in all aspects of this fledgling program.

The outreach efforts are only a part of what is going on at Death Valley with the Division of Interpretation. Starting in 2008, national parks across the country have been awarded additional operating funds to hire 3,000 additional seasonal employees. Death Valley received 22 of those positions. The protection division will see 14 new rangers this year and interpretation will see 8. This is all part of the President's Centennial Initiative to help prepare the National Park Service for their 100th birthday in 2016. This will mean a greater park service presence in the park, and additional opportunities for visitors to attend ranger conducted activities. The park has a permanent staff of 14 with a combined Death Valley work history of over 100 years of dedicated visitor service!!! With the additional seasonal staff the park for the first time in many years will have interpretive staffing reaching the level commensurate of a park this size. The following is a listing of all the interpretive seasonals for 2008 who help make visitors stay at the park enjoyable, exciting and memorable.



Terry Baldino, Chief of Interpretation, Death Valley National Park.

Scotty's Castle (North District): Beth Coombs, Michael Fitz, Eleanor Knapp-Motter, Mary Mikulla, Ron Motter, Matt Nagel, James Oakley, Jeanne Roy, Audrey Trevaskis, Jack Van Essen.
Furnace Creek (South District): John Manning, Rosanne McHenry, Holly Mills, Lori Spoelhof, Bob Spoelhof.
Stovepipe Wells: Glenn Johnson
Interagency Visitor Center (Lone Pine): Daniel Elsbrock

Finally, the Division will be doing the initial planning for new exhibits to replace the aging exhibits at Furnace Creek Visitor Center. New wayside (roadside) exhibits will also be planned in this new year. Assistance in this last project has already been offered by the Death Valley '49er organization and the Clampers! Interpretation is also heavily involved with the new site plan being developed for Devils Hole.

In all 2008 is going to be a very busy and fruitful year for the Division, the park and its partners. We invite everyone to come this winter and spring and take advantage of the weather, the sites, and the many new programs being offered. As always we appreciate the feedback, the input and the suggestions to make this park and our operations better.

Become a DV'49ERS Corporate Member Today!

Join Now

The Death Valley '49ers Non-Profit Organization is proud to offer Corporate Memberships to businesses who wish to show their pioneer spirit, and attract new customers.

These annual memberships are designed to identify and offer special benefits to businesses that support the DV'49ERS and its members.

Show your support by becoming a DV'49ERS Corporate Member and let the industry and the DV'49ERS membership know that you are part of our family.

DV'49ERS Corporate Memberships run from November thru October and are renewable annually.

DEATH VALLEY Region Support

Annual DV'49ERS Corporate Memberships give businesses the opportunity to show their support of the DV'49ERS programs and the Annual Encampment which has continued since 1949.

Corporate Membership offers a unique package of benefits. By becoming a DV'49ERS Corporate Member, you will be helping to insure the future of the DV'49ERS to "promote understanding and appreciation of Death Valley and its history," as well as providing for the further education of students in the Death Valley region through the Death Valley '49ERS Educational Programs, which include both the Scholarship and Outreach Programs, as well as future programs.

Benefits

- DV'49ERS Corporate Members receive the following benefits:
- Four Memberships into the DV'49ERS including encampment buttons, window stickers, yearly keepsakes, encampment programs and bi-yearly news magazines.
- A link on the DV'49ERS Web Sites Special Corporate Member Page to your web site.
- A listing in the DEATH VALLEY NEWS, news magazine as well as discounts on advertising.
- A Corporate Membership Certificate

Fees

Your One-year Corporate Membership is $300 and $200 for a yearly renewal and provides your company with many worthwhile benefits, including multiple memberships as well as entrance into the Death Valley '49ERS Annual Encampment, as well as the Death Valley News bi-annual news magazine, a link on the Death Valley '49ERS Web Sites Corporate Member Page as well as an identifying certificate for your company's wall.

Death Valley '49ERS Corporate Members can sign up by completing and returning this application along with your payment.

Thank You

~ DV'49ERS Corporate Member Application ~

Yes___ Please sign us up as a Corporate Member

Company:_____

Address:_____

City:_____

State:_____Zip:_____Phone_____

Email:_____

Web Site:_____

Web Master:_____

Please list up to three other recipients for Membership Packets

1._____

2._____

3._____

☐ Corporate Membership - $300.00 *(per year)*

☐ Corporate Membership Renewal - $200.00 *(per year)*

Signature_____

Your Membership In The Death Valley '49ers may be tax deductible

Please send your remittance to:

Death Valley '49ers
Non-Profit Organization
PO Box 101
Amargosa Valley, NV. 89020-0101

www.DeathValley49ers.org

Promote Understanding and Appreciation of Death Valley and its History

DEATH VALLEY '49ER PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: NEWS AND OLD & NEW PUBLICATIONS

by Director Ken Lengner

The Publications Committee has two new members. Stan Paher is a historian, author, and owner of Nevada Publications who brings his extensive historical and business expertise to the Committee. Stan will function as '49er Director and Co-Chairman of the Publications Committee and has already presented us with new business opportunities. Genne Nelson, who has an article about her in this News Magazine issue, joins us as an Advisor in charge of new books. She has started things off by co-authoring a book on Furnace Creek with Ken Lengner. The book is to be published this year.

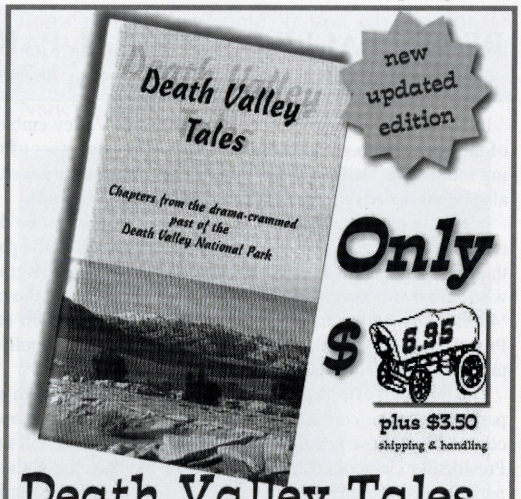
Two old keepsakes, that are currently out of stock, have received face lifts and will be available for sale while you are reading this article. Keepsake Manager Jean Pickard has designed a brilliant, new cover and revamped the interior of Keepsake No. 28, *Dr. Samuel Gregg George, Death Valley Explorer 1860-61,* by Joseph E. Doctor. Dr. George staked the first claim in Death Valley, which unfortunately did not pay off in his lifetime. We have added an addendum which describes how it finally became a productive antimony mine during World War I. First Vice President and the Warbling Wonder of the Amargosa Valley, Danny Ray Thomas, has designed a stunning cover for the reprint of Keepsake No. 35, *Take the Train to Death Valley, DV Railroad Ltd.,* by Hugh C. Tolford. One of our goals is to reprint two more Keepsakes which are: No. 34, *The Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and Their Living Valley* by the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe and No. 26, *Gentlewomen Adventures in Death Valley* by Walt Wheelock.

New Keepsake No. 48 for 2008 will be about motor vehicles in Death Valley. '49er Director and Author Gene Elmore has the daunting task of reviewing a plethora of material and trimming it down into a keepsake. Past President Bill Pool is arranging for the "Salinas Valley 4 Bangers Model T Ford Club," which participated in the 2007 Encampment, to return to the Encampment in 2008. Their return will be an outstanding compliment to Keepsake No. 48.

We also have targeted additional books for reprint this year. Specific selection is pending.

Dave Heffner is gathering all available historical material on Old Dinah. We are considering publishing this as a keepsake sized booklet.

Besides publishing keepsakes and books, your Publications Committee is also now the focus for organizing, editing, and printing the News Magazine, Encampment Program, "Quadfold," and membership flyer. We have a great team of people (Stan Paher, Danny Ray Thomas, Cheryl Thomas, Ralph Housely, Elaine Housely, Jean Pickard, Dave Heffner, and Dianne Heffner, and Genne Nelson) who are dedicated to providing new, better, and more publications to the Death Valley '49er organization.



Death Valley Tales

Chapters from the drama-crammed past of the DV National Park

Death Valley '49ers publication # 03

This publication has been in print since 1955, but this newly updated edition now has Mrs. Juliette Briers account of her trek through the desert in 1849 - 50 and Russ Journigan's remembrances from the 1930's and 1940's

ORDER YOURS AT
www.DeathValley49ers.org

STOVEPIPE WELLS PROSPECTOR RACE

by Chuck and Sarah Fiske

The Stovepipe Wells prospector race made a comeback after taking a break for about 3 years. The event was led by Chuck and Sarah Fiske with a lot of help from many other '49ers. There were a few changes from previous races. This year the contestants were required to build a frame for the tent out of PVC pipe. The pieces of pipe for the frame were placed in a mixed up pile at the start line. The contestants, which included many members of E. Clampus Vitus, were required to run about 25 yards to get their bag of fixin's which included the fittings to build the tent, the fire makings, the blankets and the pancake mix and pan. The tent seemed to present a bit of a problem for some contestants, while others were able to get the tent put together very quickly. As a matter of fact, some teams had the fire built, the pancake cooked, the blanket unfolded ready to jump in the tent and the tent was still in pieces. The event kept the audience entertained. With the help of several '49ers we were able to run 2 heats of 4 teams each with one final heat of 4 teams for the first, second, and third place team ribbons.

Prospectors Race contestants try to assemble tents. Were the pancakes edible? *Jensen*

DEATH VALLEY '49ERS & NPS HISTORY PROJECT OLD NEWSPAPERS & TRADE JOURNALS

by Life Director Dave Heffner, Blair Davenport (DEVA Museum Curator), and Director Ken Lengner

In the Fall issue of the News Magazine, we wrote about the newspapers and trade journals that documented the history of the Death Valley region. Starting in the 1870s, these papers' content range from bombastic salesmanship of a towns mining future to an accurate description of events. They were a clear portal into the past.

Last summer we started a project to identify and prioritize newspapers which we wanted to have documented on microfilm. The project was approved by the Board of Directors and limited funding provided. Our highest priority was 1870-1909 issues of the *Inyo Independent*. Second place went to (1881– 1909) issues from the *Inyo Register.*

Finding the proper vender proved to be an effort due to significant changes in that industry. Diligent research located a California organization dedicated to preserving historical newspapers. An order has been placed for the *Inyo Independent* issues. We are awaiting "news" on the availability of the *Inyo Register* issues.

There are many additional regional or town newspapers we hope to purchase if we can obtain additional funding.

Anyone wishing to support this project, please contact Ken Lengner at,

dthvlyken@hughes.net
or (775) 751-8649.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADVERTISE IN THE DEATH VALLEY NEWS ?

You probably have noticed that some of our members have availed themselves of the opportunity to advertise in the Death Valley News. They've advertised their businesses or items they have for sale.

The rates to current Death Valley '49er members are as follows:

Business Card Size:	H 2.0" x W 3.85"	$ 30.00
One Quarter Page:	H 5.0" x W 3.85"	$125.00
One Half Page:	H 5.0" x W 7.90"	$250.00
One Half Page:	H10.2"x W 3.85"	$250.00
Full Page:	H10.2"x W 7.90"	$500.00

Funds will help to defray our News Magazine publication costs and support worthwhile Death Valley '49er activities. Please, show good taste. All ads will be evaluated for content before being accepted .

Email your ad in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Publisher, *.Tiff or *.JPG format to:

dthvlyken@hughes.net

or mail to:

Ken Lengner
3410 North Cabo Street
Pahrump, NV 89060

Please, no illegible handwritten messages or rough sketches. We will do some limited artwork.

Death Valley '49er Membership

Become part of the History of the West
Part of the Great Western Desert
Part of something Bigger than Life
Join the Death Valley '49ers Organization and enjoy the ENCAMPMENT to the full:
November 5 - 9 2008

Becoming a member of the Death Valley '49ers Non-Profit Organization, gives you access to a whole weeks worth of Entertainment 'Death Valley Style'. Western Music Everywhere, 4x4 Backcountry Tours, Automotive Loop Tours, Gold Panning, Pampered Pet Dress-Up Contest, Western Period Costume Contests, Horseshoe Contests, Wheelbarrow Races, Golf Tournaments, Wagons & Horseback Riders Arrive, Parade, Dancing under the Stars. Come on down and watch the 'Valley of Death' turn into the Liveliest place on the Planet.

Type of Membership Regular (per couple) .....$25.00 / Year
Contributing .....$50.00 / Year
Corporation.....$300.00 first year / $200.00 each consecutive year thereafter
Life..... $500.00 / One Time

Please don't forget to include your postage fee for mailing... $2.00 / Per Packet

WAGONS - HO' Headed Toward Furnace Creek Ranch

Join the Death Valley '49ers

MEMBERSHIPS AND DONATIONS ARE THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF FUNDS TO PAY ENCAMPMENT EXPENSES

Each membership kit includes an historic keepsake publication, membership button and program, and placement on the mailing list for the semi-annual, Death Valley News.

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Application for Membership

Donations can also be made to the:
Death Valley '49er Educational Programs.....$ _____
Membership Amount.....$ _____
Encampment Packet Postage.....$ 2.00
Total.....$ _____

Phone _____

Name _____ _____
Both Names If A Couple FIRST LAST

Address _____

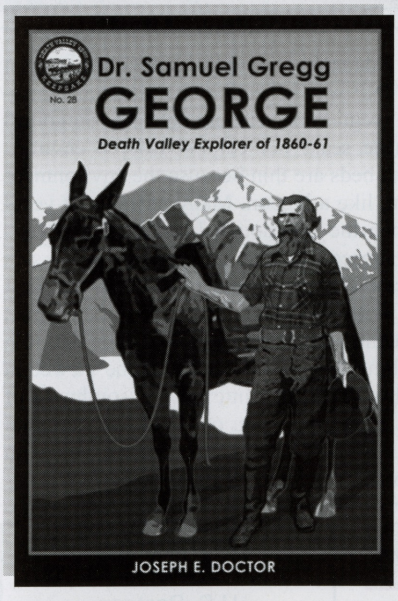
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Mail application and payment to: Death Valley '49ers, Inc.
PO Box 101
Amargosa Valley, NV. 89020

Your membership kit will be mailed to you in mid September in time for the November Encampment.

KEEPSAKE #28 Death Valley '49ers Publications KEEPSAKE #35



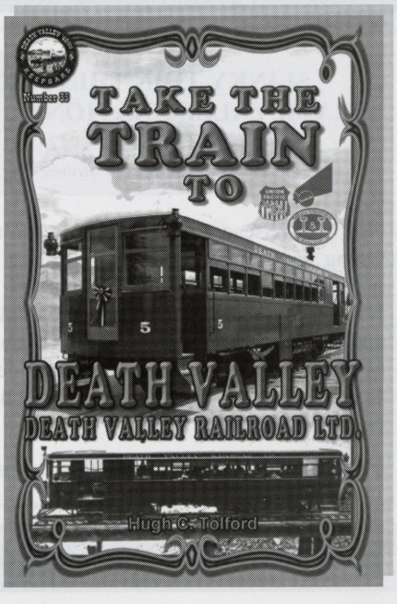
You Can Place Your Order At
www.DeathValley49ers.org
Or You Can Send Your Order To
Death Valley '49ers Publications
HCR 69 Box 893
Amargosa Valley, NV 89020

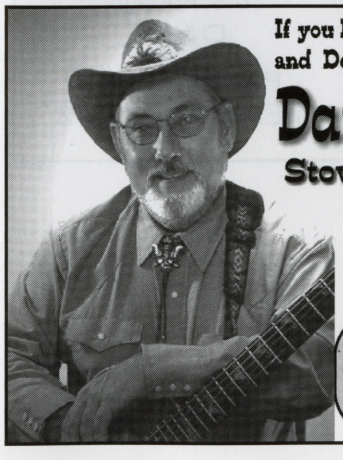
This reprinted Keepsake is about Dr. Samuel Gregg George who staked the first mining claim in Death Valley. It contains new information about his mine and Death Valley activities.

$4.95 Plus $3.50 S&H

Plus $3.50 S&H **$4.95**

This Keepsake has always been one of our most popular publications. We've just finished a new reprinting with a new attractive cover and updated interior look.





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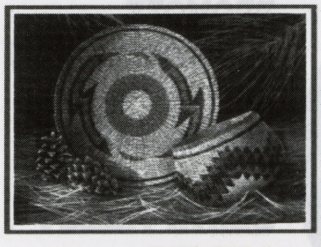
and enjoy Death Valley where ever you go

JOLENE BISS



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Standing in our streets reminiscent of the Old West, you can almost hear the famous Twenty Mule Team pass by with another wagon full of borax. And there's so much to do here – golfing, horseback riding, swimming in our spring-fed pool, visiting our museum, and exploring this amazing three-million-acre playground, not to mention historical landmarks and natural wonders. For reservations, call toll-free 800-236-7916 or visit furnacecreekresort.com. For tee times, call 760-786-3373.

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SLINKY THIN THINGS IN DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK (DVNP)

by Dr. Isadore Raleigh Stones, Esq.

No, Mr. Wiseacre Forty-Niner, it isn't the two young girls parked beside you during Encampment. It's rocks. The most important things in DVNP. More specifically, it is the thinly bedded and folded rocks of the Sourdough Limestone , as seen in this photo. Scale is provided by my finger (upper left-hand corner) in the photo. Note how thin each layer appears.

Sourdough Limestone

These thinly bedded layers were deposited during the Paleozoic (543-248 million years ago) when DVNP was beneath a shallow, transgressing and regressing (incoming and outgoing) marine (the sea... not combat troops) environment. The beds are thin because the environment was calm, like a lagoon. Many millions of years later, when the Sourdough Limestone was covered by subsequent rock and far below the surface, tectonic plates approaching from the west collided with the coast and transmitted thrust forces inland and folded (bent) the once flat, thin beds of limestone. These rocks can be viewed at the southwest end of Butte Valley, southwest of Stripped Butte. Yes, you only get one guess on why it is called "sourdough." I leave you with these words of wisdom: "Rocks never lie."

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The Death Valley '49ers, 3410 North Cabo Street, Pahrump, NV 89060

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